

Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom in 2001

Malcolm Ogilvie and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel

This is the twenty-ninth annual report of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel, which presents details of the status of Britain's rarest breeding birds for the year 2001. The majority of the totals are set out by county, region or, occasionally, country, with actual localities omitted, except where these are well-known and previously publicised. Sadly, this is still necessary to minimise the ever-present threat from egg-collectors, and also any possible risk of disturbance from over-enthusiastic bird-watchers. Where county names are given, these are grouped within the Panel's ten regions (see pp.481-482).

The Panel

The current membership of the Panel is: Colin Bibby, Humphrey Crick, Ian Francis, Judith Smith, Ken Smith, David Stroud and Malcolm Ogilvie (Secretary). The individual members of the Panel serve in a personal capacity, but three are also able to reflect the interests and needs of the respective sponsoring bodies. The work of the Panel is supported financially by the JNCC (on behalf of the country conservation agencies) and the RSPB, with additional support coming from the BTO.

Coverage

The Panel collects records from the whole of the United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland, but not from the Republic of Ireland. The majority of the information presented here is submitted by County Recorders, with additional data coming from specialist groups and Schedule 1 licence forms received from the three country agencies. Coverage in 2001, while

excellent in geographical terms, with records received from virtually all County Recorders, was, nevertheless, seriously affected by the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, which seriously restricted access to many areas during the spring (see below). With regard to the acceptance of records for publication, it is the Panel's policy to follow the opinions of the appropriate County Recorder and local committee, and only in very exceptional cases to publish records which have not been vetted in this way.

Review of the year 2001

The spring was generally finer and drier than in recent years, though some parts of the country experienced quite cold weather, with northerly winds predominating in April, which probably delayed the nesting of some species and may have discouraged some pairs from breeding altogether. Some (mainly short) periods of heavy rainfall in late April and May led to problems of flooding in parts of southern England, with ground-nesting waders being flooded out, though not to the same extent as in 2000. June was a drier month over much of the country, though parts of Scotland were wetter; while rainfall in July was higher than average in many areas.

Foot-and-mouth disease

The outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) began in the third week of February and, before the end of the month, local authorities had been given powers to close footpaths and rights of way where this was considered necessary, and access to the countryside generally was being actively discouraged. During

March and April, the geographic extent of the outbreak became clear, with particular 'hotspots' in southwest and northwest England, while in Scotland, the outbreak was confined to the south of the country. By the end of April, infected-area restrictions were being lifted from farmland in several areas, but local authorities varied enormously in the speed with which they relaxed their bans on the use of rights of way, with at least some maintained until the end of July. Perhaps not surprisingly, many landowners and farmers also kept notices prohibiting access in place long after it was strictly necessary. On the other hand, many birdwatchers carrying out regular surveys reported excellent co-operation from those who usually grants them permission to enter their land, even in areas which were potentially at risk. Thus, the results of the 2001 breeding season reported here are more complete than was feared, although for a number of species coverage was severely restricted or occasionally not possible. In a number of cases, estimates of breeding numbers are presented when actual surveys were not possible. Some indication of how coverage was affected is given in the relevant species comments. One side effect of the ban on access to the countryside was the reduced level of disturbance, and a number of County Recorders commented on how this may have enabled more pairs of some species to breed successfully.

Divers to Eurasian Spoonbill

The breeding season for Red-throated Divers *Gavia stellata* in both Shetland and Orkney was a substantial improvement on that in 2000, with a larger number of successful pairs in both island groups. Productivity on Shetland was poor, however, and a reduced food supply (principally sandeels *Ammodytes*) was thought to be the likely cause. Only just over half the Black-throated Diver *G. arctica* haunts could be surveyed in 2001 because of FMD, interrupting a very long-running survey. Not only was monitoring restricted, but, unfortunately, a number of the rafts which had been removed for winter maintenance could not be returned to the lochs in time for the breeding season. The fact that raft nests are, in general, more productive than natural sites distorted the productivity figures, which, from the sample checked, were poor.

After thinking that Red-necked Grebes *Podiceps grisegena* had finally given up attempting to breed in southern Scotland after 17 years of

trying, a pair unexpectedly appeared at a different locality and not only laid eggs but actually reared one young, thus providing the first successful breeding of this species in the UK. Both the number of breeding pairs of Slavonian Grebes *P. auritus* and the number of young reared rose compared with 2000, and there was a small but welcome increase in the number of localities occupied, though this is still well below the level of even ten years ago. A decline in the number of confirmed breeding Black-necked Grebes *P. nigricollis* from the record numbers in 2000 can probably be attributed to the reduced coverage stemming from FMD, although productivity was not good. The continued conservation management being carried out by RSPB, English Nature and others on the *Phragmites*-reedbed habitat of Great Bitterns *Botaurus stellaris* resulted in a striking increase in the number of booming males, up from 22 to 30, and at least 22 nests. Despite access restrictions in some areas, numbers of breeding Little Egrets *Egretta garzetta* increased substantially, by approximately 50% over the 2000 figure, and breeding activity was reported from 11 counties compared with the previous year's total of six, including the first breeding in Wales. Unlike the situation in 2000, Eurasian Spoonbills *Platalea leucorodia* did not attempt to breed, and the establishment of a permanent breeding colony is clearly still a little while away.

Wildfowl

Two pairs of Whooper Swans *Cygnus cygnus* nested successfully in Shetland and this species can now probably be regarded as a regular breeding species, albeit in very small numbers. Summering occurred in several other areas of Scotland, often by injured birds unable or unwilling to migrate to Iceland, and this may lead to further breeding attempts in future. Reports of many of the scarcer ducks, including Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Gadwall *A. strepera* and Pintail *A. acuta*, were well down on past years because of access problems across the country, but even where pairs were seen, their breeding status was difficult to establish. The same was certainly true for Garganey *A. querquedula*, although there was a general paucity of records, suggesting that it was a relatively poor year for this species anyway, and that there was little recovery from the low numbers found in 2000. Access to reservoirs and gravel-pits, necessary to establish numbers of breeding

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*, was severely restricted in many English counties and the total reported is not representative. Neither Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* nor Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* were surveyed in detail within their Scottish ranges in 2001, though there was an increase in the number of records of summering Common Goldeneyes from England.

Raptors

The Panel's survey of European Honey-buzzards *Pernis apivorus* in 2000 resulted in better coverage and increased numbers reported, and it had been intended to repeat the survey in 2001. FMD put an end to this intention, but nonetheless coverage was good and there was a smaller drop in numbers of pairs reported than might have been expected. This species' late breeding season enabled observers to get round most of its favoured areas in time to see what was happening. Monitoring of the Welsh Red Kite *Milvus milvus* population was severely curtailed, and little more than one-third of the estimated territory-holding pairs could be checked. Estimated totals have been provided by the Welsh Kite Trust, and the run of data is prob-

ably good enough to be able to interpolate reasonably accurate figures in a year or two's time. Breeding success of the pairs which were monitored was quite good, with none of the losses from heavy rain and high winds experienced in some recent years, and perhaps some benefit from reduced disturbance by walkers and other countryside users. The re-established populations in England and central Scotland had a generally good season in areas where monitoring was possible. In northern Scotland, however, recruitment remained well below that expected and was almost certainly affected by deliberate poisoning. The number of pairs of breeding White-tailed Eagles *Haliaeetus albicilla* continued to increase, slowly but steadily, although their breeding success was slightly down: 11 young were reared to fledging compared with 12 in 2000.

Coverage of Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* populations was better than expected, thanks to access restrictions being lifted at key breeding sites in East Anglia in time for survey work. There was, however, a slight decline in overall numbers of breeding males and females recorded, the first for several years. Owing to FMD, data on breeding success was more diffi-



316. Family party of Whooper Swans *Cygnus cygnus*, Shetland, June 2003. Two pairs of Whooper Swans nested successfully in Shetland in 2001, the year considered in this report, and this species is now perhaps best regarded as a rare yet regular breeding species in Scotland.

cult to obtain than usual and fewer chicks were known to have fledged than in 2000. Monitoring of Hen Harriers *C. cyaneus* was virtually impossible in much of southern Scotland, where just 16 occupied territories were checked compared with 58 in 2000, with a similar picture in northern England (7 and 14 respectively) and Wales (6 and 19). Britain's rarest regularly breeding raptor, Montagu's Harrier *C. pygargus*, enjoyed its most productive year since 1995. After an increase in the number of Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* pairs monitored in 2000, numbers fell back in 2001 because of restricted access. Golden Eagles *Aquila chrysaetos* had a reasonable year, with breeding success slightly better than in either of the two previous years. One of two pairs in northern England managed to fledge a chick, but the two pairs in southern Scotland both failed. Ospreys *Pandion haliaetus* continued their steady increase, with monitoring hardly affected by FMD. Away from the core area, a pair bred in Dumfries & Galloway, and three pairs bred in Cumbria, two of which reared young. In addition, a pair bred at Rutland Water in Leicestershire, where the male, a relocated bird, attracted a wild mate.

Monitoring of all three falcons included in this report was affected by access restrictions, with many fewer Merlins *Falco columbarius* reported than usual from England, Wales and southern Scotland. Numbers of Hobbies *F. subbuteo* declined from the peak in 2000, and while Peregrine Falcons *F. peregrinus* were monitored adequately in England, coverage in Wales was poor and virtually non-existent in southern Scotland.

Common Quail, rails and waders

Calling Common Quails *Coturnix coturnix* can often be heard over considerable distances, enabling surveys to be carried out from public roads and footpaths, but even so, 2001 was a second successive poor year, with most of those present concentrated in the southern half of England. Similarly, the distinctive call of Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana* carries well in the still dusk atmosphere, enabling surveys to be carried out with relative ease, but again the number of localities and singing birds were both close to those reported in 2000. The spring and summer weather was perhaps poorest in northwest Scotland and, consequently, numbers of Corn Crakes *Crex crex*

were almost exactly the same as in 2000.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* numbers were well down on the record total in 2000, partly because access to several colonies was banned, while establishing whether young had fledged was also impossible in several cases. Where monitoring was possible, a combination of high tides and predation was blamed for the failure of some colonies. Monitoring of Stone-curlews *Burhinus oedicephalus* was successful in southern England, but severely curtailed in the East Anglian Brecks. As a consequence, the total number of pairs found was only about two-thirds of what might have been expected, although breeding success was reasonably good. Given their preference for gravel-pits, reporting of Little Ringed Plovers *Charadrius dubius* was particularly poor, and the results are probably not a true reflection of actual numbers. There were no definite reports of either Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* or Purple Sandpiper *C. maritima* breeding in Scotland this year, though a pair of the latter species possibly did so. Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* were noted at two leks in Cambridgeshire, both involving several birds, but neither was known to lead to any nesting attempt. Black-tailed Godwits *Limosa limosa* did quite well, despite losses caused by flooding at one key site, and the number of breeding pairs was higher than for many years. A pair of Green Sandpipers *Tringa ochropus* bred in Scotland for the third year running and a second pair may have done so; and, while there were no confirmed breeding Wood Sandpipers *T. glareola*, at least eight pairs were located. Red-necked Phalaropes *Phalaropus lobatus* continued to breed in Shetland, with a slightly better year than in 2000, but, disappointingly, there were no reports of any birds in the Western Isles.

Gulls and terns

The number of Mediterranean Gulls *Larus melanocephalus* breeding in England was very similar to the record numbers found in 2000. Although confirmation of successful breeding was difficult to establish in several localities, at least 30 young are known to have fledged. No less than three pairs of Yellow-legged Gulls *L. (cachinnans) michahellis* attempted to breed, two of which reared young. Roseate Terns *Sterna dougallii* showed some signs of recovery from the low figures in 2000, although numbers in Scotland fell to an all-time low. In contrast,

the number of breeding Little Terns was the best ever in these reports.

Barn Owl, Common Kingfisher and Wryneck

Although monitoring of Barn Owls *Tyto alba* and Common Kingfishers *Alcedo atthis* was affected by FMD restrictions, the impact of these controls was less severe than might have been expected, particularly considering how many Barn Owls breed in farm buildings. For the first time since the Panel started collecting records in 1973, there was not a single report of Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* during the breeding season. If recolonisation ever does take place, it will be interesting to see whether it occurs in Scotland by, presumably, Scandinavian birds, or in the southern half of England by birds from the near continent. In view of the recent and ongoing declines in the Netherlands and northern France, a reversal of its fortunes in England may be some way off.

Passerines

Wood Lark *Lullula arborea* monitoring was badly affected in several counties, especially in its Hampshire and Breckland strongholds. As Black Redstarts *Phoenicurus ochruros* inhabit mainly urban areas or industrial sites, such as power stations, FMD access restrictions should not have affected their monitoring too much. The drop in number of localities, and in the number of pairs may, therefore, be real. For the second year running, two pairs of Fieldfares *Turdus pilaris* nested successfully, but there were few reports of breeding Redwings *T. iliacus*. Access restrictions prevented the normal survey coverage for several of the rarer breeding warblers. Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*, Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*, Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* and Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata* were all affected to a greater or lesser extent, and we hope to reveal a return to more accurate monitoring in 2002 in our next report. Vagrant warblers frequently sing during spring migration, and 2001 brought its usual crop of potential colonisers, including Great Reed *A. arundinaceus*, Marmor's *S. sarda* and Greenish Warblers *Phylloscopus trochiloides*.

Welcome co-operation from Forest Enterprise enabled a planned survey of Firecrests *Regulus ignicapilla* in Kent to proceed, and the results helped to raise the number of breeding pairs to a new record total, despite some gaps in coverage elsewhere. Monitoring of Bearded Tits

Panurus biarmicus was adversely affected by access problems, as it was for other species confined to wetland habitats, and numbers dropped sharply from the record total reported in 2000. Access permissions were obtained for all the Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* breeding localities within the East Anglian study area, but the number of breeding pairs fell to the lowest level since 1975, with barely half the number of pairs compared with 2000. Red-billed Choughs *Pyrhcorax pyrrhcorax* did quite well where they were monitored, but there were several gaps in coverage. Finally, to end on a high note, a breeding pair of Bramblings *Fringilla montifringilla* in northern Scotland was the first since 1993.

Conservation uses of Panel data

It is the Panel's policy to make data available for relevant conservation uses. As well as site-specific information (e.g. for the review of Special Protection Areas by JNCC and the country conservation agencies), national datasets have been used by the RSPB for planning surveys. The Panel's data have also played a key role in national population estimates and in the development and implementation of recovery plans for certain species. The publication 'The state of the UK's birds 2002' (published jointly by RSPB, BTO, WWT and JNCC in 2003) makes extensive use of the Panel's data, as does the recently revised 'The population status of birds in the UK' (Gregory *et al.* 2002). The year also saw the publication by JNCC of a major review of the UK network of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) classified under the EC Birds Directive (Stroud *et al.* 2001). This identified groups of sites to be given European protection because of their importance to particular species, the range of species covered including many of those which the Panel monitors. The results provide a valuable audit of the degree to which these populations were protected within the SPA network in the late 1990s. As a follow-up to this review, the Panel is currently examining Spotted Crake data to place the results of the 1999 national survey of that species (Gilbert 2002) into a broader context, and to review the Spotted Crake SPAs in Britain. This will almost certainly revise the historical record for the species.

Publications

The bibliography at the end of this report gives details of published results of censuses and

surveys of the numbers and distribution of Panel species, many of these making use of the Panel's data.

Acknowledgments

Without the hard work and willing co-operation of numerous individuals, the county, regional and local recorders throughout the UK, as well as many specialist study groups and conservation organisations, the production of this report would not be possible. Although many must, for the security of the species concerned, remain anonymous, the Panel, and in particular the Secretary, would like to express sincere thanks to all those individuals whose fieldwork produced the observations which form the basis for this report. Important information for many species was also supplied by English Nature (EN), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), the Countryside Commission for Wales (CCW), and the RSPB, and the Panel gratefully acknowledges their efforts and the role they played in the production of this important report.

We would, however, like to extend particular thanks to Jake Allsopp and the Golden Oriole Group, Ian Carter, Colin Crooke, Tony Cross and the Welsh Kite Trust, Roy Dennis, Julianne Evans, Gillian Gilbert, Rhys Green, Malcolm Henderson, Bob Image, Georgina Pickerell and Ron Summers, all of whom supplied information for their particular specialities. Thanks are also due to the Scottish, Welsh and Cumbrian Raptor Study Groups, the Sea Eagle Project Team, and the Osprey Study Group, who monitor the important raptor populations in their respective regions.

Last but by no means least, we are particularly grateful to the licensing officers of the three country agencies – John Holmes (EN), John Ralston (SNH) and Sian Whitehead (CCW) – for their ready co-operation in supplying information.

Key to geographical regions used in this report

Reorganisation of local government throughout Britain has made some of the names below obsolete. As happened after the last major reorganisation, in 1974, however, some English county and area bird societies have changed their recording areas and others have not. So, without defining the precise boundaries of the 'counties' given below, these are, so far as pos-

sible, the names used by the local recorders who sent the Panel their information.

For Wales and Scotland, again wherever possible, the names of the recording areas included in the respective annual bird reports of those two countries are used. Each publishes a map showing the names and boundaries, that for Wales being based on the Watsonian vice-counties, and that for Scotland on the local bird-report areas.

England, SW Avon, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Isles of Scilly, Isle of Wight, Somerset, Wiltshire

England, SE Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, London & Middlesex, Oxfordshire, Surrey, Sussex (East and West)

England, E Cambridgeshire, Huntingdon & Peterborough, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Suffolk

England, Central Derbyshire, Herefordshire, Leicestershire (including Rutland), Nottinghamshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands, Worcestershire

England, N Cheshire & Wirral, Cleveland, Cumbria, Durham, Greater Manchester, Isle of Man, Lancashire & North Merseyside, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear, Yorkshire (North, South and West)

Wales The Watsonian vice-counties of Anglesey (Môn), Brecon (Brycheiniog), Carmarthen (Caerfyrddin), Caernarfon, Ceredigion, Denbigh (Dinbych), Flint (Fflint), Glamorgan (Morgannwg) (following the Welsh Bird Report, this recording area includes East Glamorgan and Gower), Gwent, Meirionnydd, Montgomery (Trefaldwyn), Pembroke (Penfro), Radnor (Maesyfed)

Scotland, S The local bird-recording areas of Ayrshire, Borders, Clyde (comprising West and East Dunbartonshire including that part now in Argyll & Bute, North and South Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, City of Glasgow, Inverclyde, Stirling–Clyde drainage), Clyde Islands (Arran, Bute, the Cumbraes), Dumfries & Galloway, Lothian

Scotland, Mid The local bird-recording areas of Angus & Dundee, Fife, Forth (Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Stirling), Moray & Nairn, North-east Scotland (Aberdeenshire), Perth & Kinross

Scotland, N & W The local bird-recording areas of Argyll & Bute (except Bute and former West Dunbartonshire), Caithness, Highland (Badenoch & Strathspey, Inverness, Ross & Cromarty, Sutherland), Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles

Northern Ireland Co. Antrim, Co. Armagh, Co. Down, Co. Fermanagh, Co. Londonderry, Co. Tyrone

Systematic list

The definitions of ‘Confirmed breeding’, ‘Probable breeding’ and ‘Possible breeding’ used in the Panel’s reports follow those recommended by the European Ornithological Atlas Committee. Within tables, the abbreviations ‘Confirmed pairs’ and ‘Max. total pairs’ mean, respectively, ‘Number of pairs confirmed breeding’ and ‘Number of pairs confirmed plus possible/probable pairs breeding’.

Within each species account, numbers given in the format ‘1-4 pairs’ indicate (in this case) one proven breeding pair and a possible maximum total of four breeding pairs.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Long-term monitoring continued in Orkney and Shetland. Other, more casual, breeding observations are not listed.

Scotland, N & W

ORKNEY On Hoy, a complete survey of 117 known localities found 65 pairs, of which 42 were successful, rearing 47 young, and 23 failed; on West Mainland, 27 pairs reared 33 young; on Rousay, only one young was reared at monitored localities; on Eday, five to seven pairs reared three young. This was the most successful breeding season for several years, with many more broods of two being reared than usual.

SHETLAND The total number of successful pairs in three study areas increased, but productivity fell. On Hermaness, seven pairs reared three young; on Fetlar, 23 pairs reared 11 young; on Foula, 11 pairs reared four young. This pattern, one of an increase in successful pairs, but lower productivity, was repeated at other monitored sites. In contrast to Orkney, the ratio of two-chick broods to one-chick broods was the lowest for over ten years, and this was attributed to a poor food supply.

WESTERN ISLES At least six of ten pairs monitored on North and South Uist reared young.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Monitoring of this species was severely curtailed by FMD, and only 51 localities were checked by the RSPB instead of the usual 90+ sites. A total of 51 pairs bred at monitored sites: 19 pairs nested on rafts but managed to rear only four young, while 32 pairs bred in natural localities and reared eight young. In addition to access restrictions, which affected many of the more-productive raft sites, a number of rafts which had been removed for winter renovation could not be replaced in time for the breeding season. This undoubtedly explains not only the lower than usual raft productivity, but also why this is the first year in which natural localities were more productive than rafts.

Year	Sites monitored	Sites occupied	Rafts used/ available	Young fledged (av. chicks per pair)			Production ratio: raft site to natural site
				Rafts	Natural	Total	
1996	120	96	27/45	19 (0.70)	28 (0.41)	47 (0.49)	1.7
1997	98	82	32/41	17 (0.53)	12 (0.10)	29 (0.35)	5.3
1998	114	82	38/45	19 (0.50)	12 (0.28)	31 (0.38)	1.8
1999	90	77	38/48	14 (0.37)	7 (0.27)	21 (0.27)	1.4
2000	93	83	33/57	14 (0.42)	13 (0.33)	27 (0.33)	1.3
2001	51	51	19/unknown	4 (0.21)	8 (0.25)	12 (0.24)	0.8



Tim Loseby

317. Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*, Kent, March 1994. The first successful breeding of Red-necked Grebe in Britain occurred in 2001, in southern Scotland.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Five localities in three counties: one pair bred, plus two adults in summer plumage. During the past ten years, up to five pairs have been reported from up to ten sites. After believing last year that the on/off breeding attempts of a pair in southern Scotland since 1983 had finally come to an end, a pair appeared on a different water within the region in 2001 and bred successfully for the first time in the UK. The single surviving youngster was last seen in early August.

England, E

One locality: summer-plumaged adult at usual site, 1st-25th April.

England, N

Three localities: (1)-(3) summer-plumaged adult noted at three inland localities on 9th, 23rd and 24th May.

Scotland, S

One locality: pair bred, hatching at least two young and rearing one.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

18 localities: 40 pairs breeding, fledging 34 young. There were welcome increases in both the number of localities used and the number of territorial pairs from last year's low, while productivity was down slightly on the record high of 2000. The population at Loch Ruthven continues to flourish, with further growth in the number of pairs breeding and of young reared. The RSPB continues its research on this species, which includes habitat management, the effects of predation and attempts to locate the wintering grounds of Scottish breeding birds.

Scotland, Mid and N & W

18 localities: (1) Loch Ruthven: 18 pairs present and all probably bred, rearing 23 young; (2)-(18) 22 pairs reared 11 young.

Slavonian Grebe	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
No. localities	34	33	32	31	24	22	25	24	15	18
Confirmed pairs	72	73	51	58	49	53	42	35	31	40
Young reared	38	25	30	46	17	15	16	12	33	34
Young/territorial pair	0.53	0.34	0.59	0.79	0.35	0.28	0.38	0.34	1.06	0.85

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

32 localities in 18 counties: 42-70 pairs bred. The slight drop in the number of confirmed pairs can be attributed, at least in part, to poor coverage because of FMD, as some regular sites could not be visited until well into the breeding season.

England, SW

Four localities: 0-4 pairs. AVON Two localities: (1) one in summer plumage, April to June; (2) adult in April, with four briefly on one day. HAMPSHIRE One locality: single present in May and June. SOMERSET One locality: adult summered.

England, SE

Six localities: 4-10 pairs. ESSEX Two localities: (1) pair bred; (2) pair present April-May. HERTFORDSHIRE One locality: up to five pairs present, three broods reared. KENT Three localities: (1) up to five adults in March, then two until May and one in July; (2) three adults in March, two in April; (3) single in April in potential breeding habitat.

England, E

One locality: 2-3 pairs. LINCOLNSHIRE One locality: three pairs of which two are known to have bred, rearing four young.

England, Central

Five localities: 5-9 pairs. LEICESTERSHIRE Two localities: (1) pair in early June; (2) summer-plumaged adult in April. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Two localities: (1) five pairs believed to have bred, but only three young seen; (2) pair probably bred. WARWICKSHIRE One locality: adult in May, up to three juveniles, July-September, not certainly reared here.

England, N

Ten localities: 24-32 pairs. CHESHIRE & WIRRAL One locality: about 15 pairs bred and a record 25+ young fledged. GREATER MANCHESTER Two localities: (1) pair fledged four young, second pair probably bred; (2) pair present, but did not breed. NORTHUMBERLAND Two localities: (1) seven pairs known to have bred, but only four young reared; (2) two birds present in May. YORKSHIRE Five localities: (1) pair bred unsuccessfully; (2)-(4) pairs present in May-June; (5) adult in June, two juveniles in July-August, but probably not reared here.

Scotland, S

Two localities: 2-4 pairs. BORDERS Two localities: (1) two pairs bred and reared three young; (2) two pairs probably bred.

Scotland, Mid

Four localities: 5-8 pairs. ANGUS Two localities: (1) pair present in April but then left; (2) pair thought to be from locality (1) arrived in May and bred successfully, fledging two young. FIFE One locality: four pairs reared eight young. PERTSHIRE One locality: two pairs present of which one probably bred.

Black-necked Grebe	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
No. localities	29	31	32	30	32	26	18	22	29	32
Confirmed pairs	26	24	27	30	20	17	35	34	48	42
Max. total pairs	60	50	81	77	53	46	48	53	65	70

Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

18 localities, which held a minimum of 30 and a maximum of 33 booming males; at least 16 young fledged. Numbers have continued to climb, with a further increase in both the number of booming males and of nests. Productivity was also good.

England, SW

Two localities: (1)(2) single booming males.

England, SE

One locality: single booming male.

England, E

13 localities: (1) 6-7 booming males, up to ten nesting attempts; 32 young hatched, of which 14 were known to have fledged; (2) 4-5 booming males, two nesting attempts, but outcome unknown; (3) two booming males, 4-5 nesting



Tim Loseby

318. Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, Lea Valley, Hertfordshire, February 1996. Reedbed management work is clearly having a positive effect on the numbers of breeding Great Bitterns in Britain, and a significant increase in numbers was recorded in 2001.

attempts; chicks seen, but final outcome unknown; (4) two booming males, one nesting attempt, two young fledged; (5) one booming male, two nesting attempts, outcome unknown; (6) two booming males, one nesting attempt; (7) one booming male, one nesting attempt; (8)(9) one booming male, one possible nesting attempt; (10) 1-2 booming males; (11)-(13) single booming males.

England, N

Two localities: (1) two booming males, one nest, chicks lost early on; (2) one booming male, one possible nest.

Great Bittern	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
No. localities	14	13	16	13	10	10	12	16	17	18
Confirmed nests	4	5	5	11	8	15	13	22	19	22
Booming males (min.)	18	15	15	19	22	11	13	19	22	30
Booming males (max.)	19	17	16	20	22	12	18	24	28	33

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

19 localities: 102-115 pairs bred. This represents a doubling of breeding localities and a 50% increase in breeding pairs since 2000 (see fig. 1, p.486), and a considerable geographical spread, which includes the first breeding records for Suffolk, Cheshire & Wirral and Wales.

England, SW

Ten localities: 64-72 pairs. AVON Two localities: (1) up to five birds in April and May; (2) single in May. DORSET Four localities: (1) 45 pairs bred, number of fledged young unknown; (2) three pairs bred, seven young seen; (3) five adults in heronry in May, displaying and carrying sticks; (4) pair present in heronry early in the year. HAMPSHIRE Two localities: (1) 11 pairs bred; (2) at least one pair bred. SOMERSET Two localities: (1) two pairs bred in heronry, rearing five young; third pair may have bred; (2) two pairs bred in isolated trees in hedgerow, rearing four young.

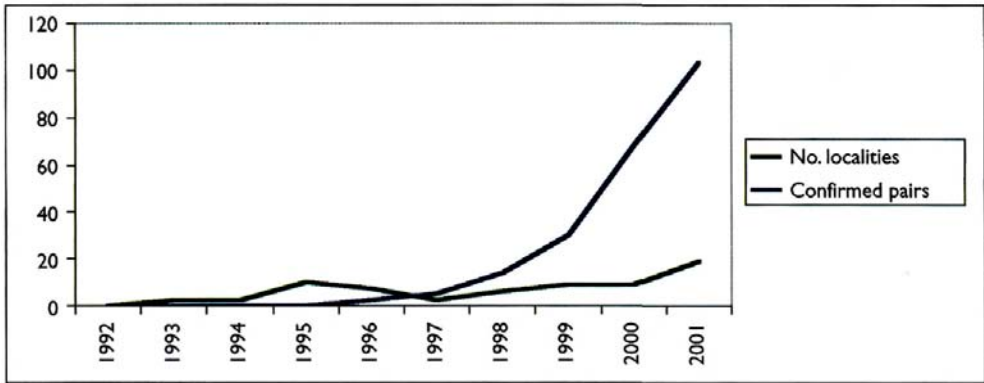


Fig. 1. The number of confirmed breeding pairs of Little Egrets *Egretta garzetta* in the UK, 1992-2001. The graph emphasises the dramatic increase of this species since about 1997, predominantly in England. The first breeding record for Wales was confirmed in 2001; how long will it be before Little Egrets are breeding successfully in Scotland?

England, SE

Three localities: 32 pairs. ESSEX One locality: 20 pairs reared 45 young. KENT Two localities: (1) seven pairs reared 17-18 young; (2) five pairs bred, no details of success.

England, E

Two localities: 4-7 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE One locality: at least two, possibly three, pairs visiting heronry, but no proof of breeding. SUFFOLK One locality: four pairs bred, rearing at least ten young.

England, N

Two localities: 1-2 pairs. CHESHIRE & WIRRAL One locality: pair bred in heronry, one young reared. YORKSHIRE One locality: adult in breeding plumage early May, flock of six in July.

Wales

One locality: One pair. SOUTH WALES One locality: pair bred and fledged two young.

Scotland, S

One locality: 0-1 pairs. DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY One locality: adult in early June.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Six localities with birds present, but no breeding activity was reported this year. Nonetheless, the birds at these sites were all in potential breeding habitat and worth recording in case of future colonisation.

England, E

Four localities: (1) one or two birds seen occasionally from early March to late July; (2) one or two birds intermittently from April to late July; (3) one to three birds regularly in July; (4) four on 17th June.

England, N

One locality: three present in July in suitable breeding habitat.

Scotland, S

One locality: two in early June, at a site where nest platforms were built in 2000, but no breeding activity.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Eight localities: 2-8 pairs bred. These are all considered to be of wild origin, although some may have been injured birds unable to undertake their normal migration to breeding grounds in Iceland. Only pairs are shown. In addition, several single birds were reported during the summer from other localities. Records of escaped birds are now included in the Panel's report on non-native breeding birds (*Brit. Birds* 96: in press).

Scotland, S

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY One area: mated pair on several lochs over about ten days in late April.

Scotland, N & W

ARGYLL Three localities: (1)(2) single pairs present June-July; (3) two pairs arrived late July and stayed into autumn. HIGHLAND One locality: pair summered. SHETLAND Three localities: (1) pair bred, hatched four eggs and reared one youngster; (2) pair bred, hatched three eggs and one young fledged; (3) single adult at regular breeding site, sat on nest, but no eggs laid.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Breeding reports were received as detailed below. As with virtually all the wildfowl in this year's report, access restrictions imposed because of FMD meant reduced coverage in several areas, and so the data are not truly comparable with those for previous years.

England, SW

DEVON One male summered. SOMERSET 12 birds at two localities.

England, SE

BEDFORDSHIRE Single pairs at two localities, one of which may have attempted to breed. ESSEX Pair summered. KENT Eight pairs in county.

England, E

CAMBRIDGESHIRE Four pairs at one locality, no broods seen. SUFFOLK 1-4 birds at eight localities.

England, Central

DERBYSHIRE Three males summered. LEICESTERSHIRE Pair summered. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Five pairs bred, rearing 13 young at one locality, a pair probably bred at a second, and another possibly at a third. WARWICKSHIRE Single males summered at three localities.

England, N

CHEESHIRE & WIRRAL Birds summered at five localities. CUMBRIA Single pairs present in suitable habitat at two localities. NORTHUMBERLAND Four pairs reared broods at one locality. YORKSHIRE At least seven summering birds.

Scotland, S

BORDERS Three pairs. DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY Three pairs probably bred at two localities.

Scotland, Mid

ANGUS & DUNDEE Pair summered. MORAY & NAIRN Pair summered. PERTH & KINROSS Pairs bred at three localities, and were present at three more.

Scotland, N & W

ARGYLL Two pairs bred at one locality. HIGHLAND 16 pairs present at one locality. ORKNEY Six pairs bred at four localities, four pairs probably bred at three more. SHETLAND Pair bred at one locality, pair possibly bred at a second.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

The maximum total reported, 823 pairs, is well down on the previous year's figure of at least 1,000 pairs, and reflects access difficulties.

England, SW

AVON Four pairs. DEVON Up to 18 pairs. DORSET Seven pairs. HAMPSHIRE 35 pairs. SOMERSET 55 pairs. WILTSHIRE One pair.

England, SE

BEDFORDSHIRE Six pairs. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Ten pairs. ESSEX 16 pairs. GREATER LONDON Four pairs. HERTFORDSHIRE 20 pairs. KENT 96 pairs. OXFORDSHIRE 10-15 pairs. SUSSEX 25 pairs.

England, E

CAMBRIDGESHIRE 18 pairs. HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH 18 pairs. LINCOLNSHIRE 26 pairs. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Six pairs. SUFFOLK 67 pairs.

England, Central

DERBYSHIRE 26 pairs. LEICESTERSHIRE Four pairs. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 48 pairs. SHROPSHIRE Five pairs. WARWICKSHIRE 15 pairs. WORCESTERSHIRE One pair.

England, N

CHEESHIRE & WIRRAL 31 pairs. CUMBRIA Six pairs. GREATER MANCHESTER 12 pairs. LANCASHIRE & NORTH MERSEYSIDE 13 pairs. NORTHUMBERLAND Nine pairs. YORKSHIRE 55 pairs.

Wales

ANGLESEY 33 pairs. CAERNARFON Two pairs. CARMARTHEN Nine pairs. GWENT Four pairs. PEMBROKE One pair.

Scotland, S

BORDERS Three pairs. DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY Two pairs.

Scotland, Mid

ANGUS & DUNDEE Seven pairs. NORTHEAST One pair (first breeding record). PERTH & KINROSS 50-80 pairs.

Scotland, N & W

ARGYLL One pair. ORKNEY Three pairs. SHETLAND Five pairs.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

12 localities or areas: 1-30 pairs breeding. Like last year, limited coverage in Orkney, which is by far the most important breeding area in the UK, was a key factor in the relatively low totals, particularly of confirmed pairs. In 1998, for example, almost all the confirmed pairs (12 of 13) were in Orkney.

England, SW

One locality: 0-1 pairs. SOMERSET One locality: summering male.

England, SE

Two localities: 1-2 pairs. KENT One locality: pair summered, breeding not confirmed. SURREY One locality: pair bred, but perhaps of feral origin.

England, E

Five localities: 0-5 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE Two localities: (1)(2) single pairs, breeding not confirmed. SUFFOLK Three localities: (1)(2) single pairs in May; (3) female in July.

England, Central

One locality: 0-1 pairs. LEICESTERSHIRE One locality: pair summered.

England, N

One locality: 0-4 pairs. CHESHIRE & WIRRAL One locality: four males summered, much display but no evidence of breeding.

Scotland, N & W

Two areas: 0-17 pairs. ORKNEY Two areas: (1) 13 pairs present; (2) four pairs present.

Pintail	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
No. localities	23	23	49	25	33	22	28	25	15	12
Confirmed pairs	13	4	20	11	8	5	13	22	10	1
Max. total pairs	48	47	76	45	53	33	50	37	26	30

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

52 localities: 9-84 pairs breeding.

England, SW

Six localities: 2-12 pairs. AVON One locality: pair probably bred. DEVON One locality: one pair. DORSET One locality: one pair. SOMERSET Three localities: two pairs bred, seven other pairs.

England, SE

14 localities: 3-23 pairs. BEDFORDSHIRE One locality: one pair. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE One locality: one pair. ESSEX Two localities: two pairs. KENT Nine localities: three pairs bred, 15 other pairs. OXFORDSHIRE One locality: one pair.

England, E

17 localities: 2-31 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE Five localities: one pair bred, 17 other pairs. NORFOLK Three localities: four pairs. SUFFOLK Nine localities: one pair bred, eight other pairs.

England, Central

Five localities: 2-6 pairs. LEICESTERSHIRE Three localities: three pairs. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE One locality: two pairs bred. WARWICKSHIRE One locality: one pair.

England, N

Two localities: 0-2 pairs. LANCASHIRE & NORTH MERSEYSIDE One locality: one pair. YORKSHIRE One locality: one pair.

Wales

Three localities: 0-3 pairs. ANGLESEY One locality: one pair. CAERNARFON One locality: one pair. CEREDIGION One locality: one pair.

Scotland, S

Three localities: 0-3 pairs. DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY Three localities: three pairs.

Scotland, Mid

Two localities: 0-2 pairs. ANGUS & DUNDEE Two localities: two pairs.

Scotland, N & W

Two localities: 0-2 pairs. ARGYLL One locality: one pair. ORKNEY One locality: one pair.

Garganey	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
No. localities	90	73	65	80	60	85	86	77	52	52
Confirmed pairs	16	14	13	9	15	10	22	37	30	9
Max. total pairs	160	163	111	117	78	129	144	108	109	84

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

405 pairs.

England, SW

16 pairs. AVON One pair. DORSET One pair. HAMPSHIRE Five pairs. SOMERSET Eight pairs. WILTSHIRE One pair.

England, SE

244 pairs. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Five pairs. ESSEX 102 pairs. GREATER LONDON Six pairs. HERTFORDSHIRE Four pairs. KENT 116 pairs. OXFORDSHIRE Eight pairs. SURREY Three pairs.

England, E

50 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE Eight pairs. HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH One pair. LINCOLNSHIRE 21 pairs. NORFOLK Eight pairs. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE One pair. SUFFOLK 11 pairs.

England, Central

17 pairs. LEICESTERSHIRE Four pairs. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 12 pairs. SHROPSHIRE One pair.

England, N

62 pairs. CHESHIRE & WIRRAL 15 pairs. CUMBRIA Three pairs. GREATER MANCHESTER Two pairs. LANCASHIRE & NORTH MERSEYSIDE 15 pairs. NORTHUMBERLAND Four pairs. YORKSHIRE 23 pairs.

Wales

Four pairs. ANGLESEY Two pairs. CAERNARFON One pair. CARMARTHEN One pair.

Scotland, S

Two pairs. BORDERS Two pairs.

Scotland, Mid

Seven pairs. ANGUS & DUNDEE One pair. PERTH & KINROSS Six pairs.

Scotland, N & W

Three pairs. ORKNEY Three pairs.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Four localities or areas: 2-33 pairs. The last full census was in 1995 (Underhill *et al.* 1998), when the British & Irish population was estimated to be 195 pairs. Four localities is by far the lowest number recorded during the past ten years, as is the maximum total of pairs; ten-year means for these two statistics are 28.1 and 60.1 respectively. During the 1995 survey, 61 occupied sites were visited, which held up to 89 pairs.

Scotland, Mid

Two localities: pair bred, three other pairs.

Scotland, N & W

ARGYLL One locality: pair bred, plus eight pairs. HIGHLAND One area: 20 pairs present.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Only sample data are available from nestbox schemes in Highland. The slow increase and spread of birds summering in England continues.

England, Central

Eight localities: 0-9 pairs. DERBYSHIRE One locality: pair summered. HEREFORDSHIRE One locality: two pairs present. LEICESTERSHIRE One locality: one pair. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Four localities: single summering females. WARWICKSHIRE One locality: summering female.

England, N

Five localities: 0-12 pairs. CHESHIRE & WIRRAL One locality: summering bird. CUMBRIA Three localities: three pairs and three males summered. GREATER MANCHESTER Three localities: at least five summering males.

Scotland, S

Three localities: 0-12 pairs. BORDERS Summering pair. DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY 11 summering males.

Scotland, Mid

At least three localities: 0-4 pairs. MORAY & NAIRN One locality: one pair. PERTH & KINROSS Three localities: pair and female at one, male at second; in addition, up to 50 summering birds at third locality, though no evidence of breeding and omitted from the totals.

Scotland, N & W

47 pairs. HIGHLAND Two localities: (1) Spey Valley including Insh Marshes: 41 nestboxes used; (2) RSPB Abernethy reserve: six nestboxes used.

European Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Confirmed breeding by 27 pairs; minimum of 41 young reared. Coverage in 2001 was not as complete as in 2000, when the first-ever national survey was carried out. European Honey-buzzards breed quite late in the summer, however, and access restrictions in some key areas were lifted in time for the necessary observations to be carried out.

Great Britain

15 pairs fledged two young, 11 pairs fledged one young, and one pair bred and failed. 27 pairs probably or possibly bred. There were an additional ten single birds in known breeding localities.

The breakdown of the above into countries is: **England** 25 pairs bred, plus 19 probable/possible pairs; **Wales** two possible pairs; and **Scotland** two pairs bred, plus six probable/possible pairs.

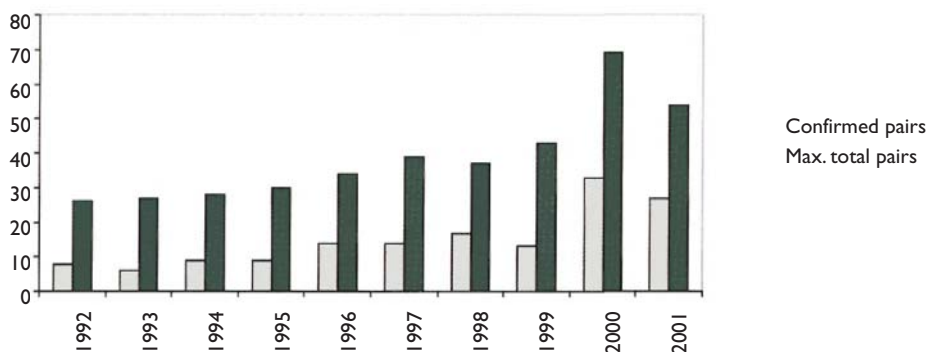


Fig. 2. Numbers of pairs of breeding European Honey-buzzards *Pernis apivorus* in the UK, 1992-2001. The sharp increase in 2000 corresponds with the Panel's survey of the species in that year.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

FMD restrictions severely affected monitoring this year, especially in Wales. The figures given below include some estimation and should be compared with the results of the first national survey since reintroductions began, which took place in 2000 (Wotton *et al.* 2002).

Including both wild and re-established populations, an estimated 285 pairs are believed to have bred in Wales, raising an unknown number of young; at least 140 breeding pairs from released stock in England reared a minimum of 242 young; while in Scotland the totals are 44 pairs and 84-85 young. Allowing for incomplete reporting from some areas, the release programme continues to show excellent results (fig. 3).

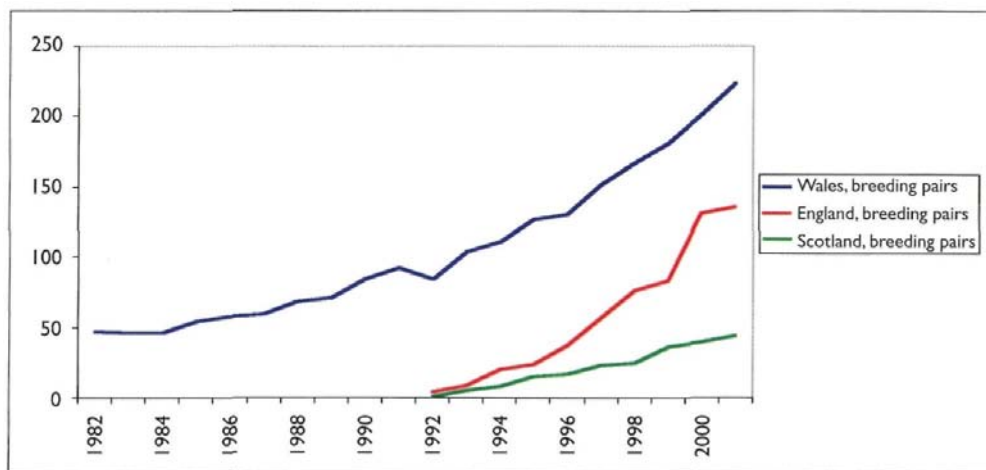


Fig. 3. The number of breeding pairs of Red Kites *Milvus milvus* in Wales, England and Scotland, 1982-2001. The success of the kite reintroduction scheme in England and Scotland is clearly evident, although, as this graph illustrates, population growth rates have varied significantly between the two countries.

Wales

There was no count of breeding pairs, but estimates based on the known details of 106 occupied territories, and allowing for the mean annual increase of recent years of c. 10%, suggest an estimated total of 285 breeding pairs which may have raised around 247 young. Of 106 territories investigated, at least 83 pairs built nests and 75 are known to have laid. Of these, 49 pairs fledged at least 72 young, and 25 are known to have failed. The breeding success in these territories was considerably better than for the population as a whole in the two previous years. This improvement has been attributed not just to drier weather in May and June, but to a reduction in disturbance because of access restrictions.

Red Kite – Wales	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Total pairs	101	115	138	146	161	180	200	228	249	(285)
Breeding pairs	84	104	111	127	130	152	167	181	201	(223)
Successful pairs	60	61	70	79	90	99	112	118	103	(168)
Young reared	96	82	99	117	119	129	174	165	141	(247)
Young/territorial pair	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.6	(0.9)

England, South

A total of 113 breeding pairs are believed to have bred in the Chilterns area, rearing over 200 young. In addition, there were up to six pairs in other counties of southern England, of which two probably reared three young between them.

England, Central

In the East Midlands release area, 13 nests were located, four of which failed. The remaining nine were successful and 25 young were reared.

England, N

Eight pairs are known to have bred, including one well away from the release site, and a total of 14 young were reared. Owing to FMD, the intended release of further birds could not take place.

Red Kite – England	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Total pairs	7	12	22	26	nc	61	87	nc	146	(140)
Breeding pairs	4	9	20	24	37+	57	76	83	131+	(136)
Successful pairs	4	8	17	22	nc	50	67	78	nc	nc
Young reared	9	14	37	55	80	111	146	172	226+	(242+)
Young/territorial pair	1.3	1.2	1.7	2.1	–	1.8	1.7	–	1.5	(1.7)

Scotland, South

A total of 33 birds was released in summer 2001 in order to establish the species in a new area of the country. 14 came from the Chilterns population, 12 from northern Scotland and seven, unexpectedly, from Germany where they had been confiscated from an illegal collector.

Scotland, Central

Ten pairs were known to have laid and seven were successful, rearing seven or eight young. One pair bred in Tayside, the first record in modern times.

Scotland, North

A total of 34 nests was located, only two more than in 2000. Of these, 31 successfully reared 77 young, the comparable figures for 2000 being 30 and 74, respectively. The rate of increase of this population is well below that in other release areas and appears to be linked to poor recruitment into the breeding population, with only three individuals from the 54 young reared in 1999 breeding in 2001. Previous survival estimates indicated that around half should have been recruited into the breeding population. In the 12 months to April 2001, the known deaths of 11 birds in the area included eight poisoned illegally, one killed by road traffic, and two more dying on sporting estates, the bodies of which were not available for post mortem. Persecution appears to be holding down a population that should otherwise have grown much faster than it has.

Red Kite – Scotland	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Total pairs	2	8	11	17	22	27	30	39	44	44
Breeding pairs	1	5	8	15	17	23	25	36	40	44
Successful pairs	1	3	6	11	16	19	22	26	38	38
Young reared	1	7	13	26	39	39	47	59	84	84-85
Young/territorial pair	0.5	0.9	1.2	1.5	1.8	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.9	1.9

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla***Scotland**

Twenty-three territories were occupied by re-established pairs, with a single bird in a further territory. Clutches were known to have been laid by 17 pairs and breeding was suspected by a further two. Two of the four remaining territory-holding pairs added material to nests, but did not lay, and the two other pairs probably did not breed. Of the 17 pairs which laid, ten broods were known to have hatched and seven were successful, fledging 11 young (four broods of two and three of one). The failures were all thought to be natural, with no instances of nest robbery this year.

Although a slightly less successful season than in 2001, the continued increase in the number of territorial pairs is encouraging (see fig. 4 on p.493). The Sea Eagle Project is supported jointly by JNCC, SNH and the RSPB.

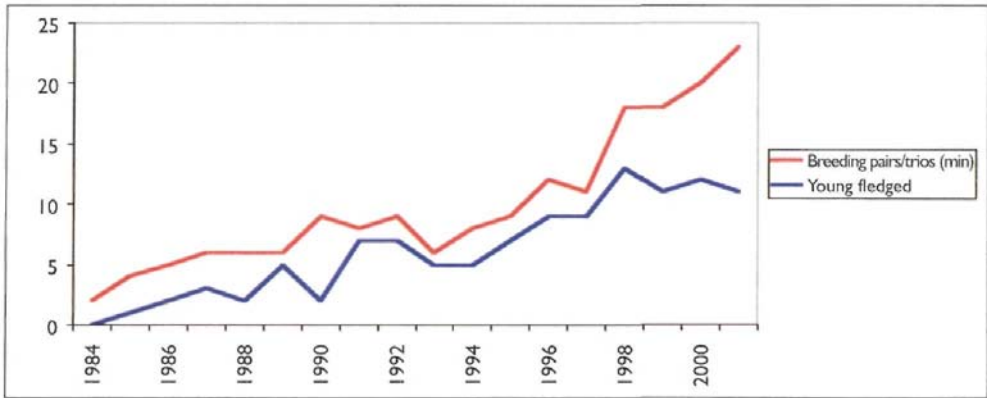


Fig. 4. The number of breeding pairs/trios of White-tailed Eagles *Haliaeetus albicilla* in Scotland, 1984-2001, and the number of chicks fledged. Although there have been setbacks along the way, the overall growth in numbers points to a successful reintroduction scheme.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

158-194 pairs bred, rearing at least 346 young. The slight decline from 2000 can be explained by the problems of access imposed by FMD. Indeed, the coverage achieved is a great credit to the fieldworkers and to the landowners for their co-operation. In a number of localities, it was possible to confirm that breeding occurred, but visiting nests to check success was not possible. The first successful breeding in Orkney, by two pairs is noteworthy.

England, SW

One locality: 0-2 pairs. SOMERSET One locality: immature male and two females in suitable habitat.

England, SE

11 localities or areas: 21-24 pairs. ESSEX Four localities: (1) three pairs reared seven young; (2) pair reared two young; (3)(4) single pairs bred. KENT Seven localities or areas: (1) five pairs reared 11 young; (2) four pairs bred, result unknown; (3) three pairs bred, result unknown; (4) two males and three females fledged at least four young; (5)(6) pair present, probably bred; (7) up to three birds in June.

England, E

125-147 pairs bred. CAMBRIDGESHIRE Seven localities: (1) six pairs reared 16 young; (2) two pairs reared seven young; (3) male and two females probably bred, three young seen but possibly not from this locality; (4) two pairs probably bred, outcome unknown; (5) pair reared 3-4 young; (6) male and two females probably bred, no young reared; (7) pair bred, outcome unknown. HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH One locality: two pairs reared three young. LINCOLNSHIRE Whole county: 41 males and 43 females reared at least 116 young, three pairs probably bred, seven pairs possibly bred. NORFOLK Whole county: 29 pairs reared 53 young, one pair probably bred, two pairs possibly bred. SUFFOLK Whole county: 41 pairs reared at least 100 young, one pair probably bred, two pairs possibly bred.

England, N

Six localities: 7-11 pairs bred. LANCASHIRE & NORTH MERSEYSIDE Two localities: (1) two males and three females bred and fledged nine young; (2) pair bred unsuccessfully. YORKSHIRE Four localities: (1) three pairs fledged six young; (2) male and two females probably bred; (3)(4) single pairs present.

Wales

Two localities: 0-2 pairs. CEREDIGION Two localities: (1)(2) females present in May.

Scotland, Mid

Three localities: 3-5 pairs. FIFE One locality: pair attempted to breed, but did not lay. NORTHEAST One locality: pair attempted to breed, but apparently failed. PERTH & KINROSS One locality: three pairs bred, one successful fledging three young.

Scotland, N

Three localities: 2-3 pairs. ARGYLL One locality: female present from May to September. ORKNEY Two localities: (1)(2) Single pairs bred, rearing 3-6 young between them; the first successful breeding on Orkney.

Marsh Harrier	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Breeding males	92	84	114	151	135	131	137	145	184	183
Breeding females	107	110	129	156	136	132	138	145	206	195
Young reared	229	244	255	277	263	206	292	256	377	346

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

The following summary information has been received. For each area, the figures are based on a non-randomised sample rather than a complete survey. The total number of monitored territories was well down on the 238 of 2000, which is almost entirely explainable by restricted access to breeding areas. Overall breeding success rose slightly, but was very poor in some areas, especially in northern England and south Strathclyde where persecution is known to be a serious problem. The total number of territorial pairs found during the 1998 census was 570 (range 499-640) (Sim *et al.* 2001).

Hen Harrier	Occupied territories	Territories known to have fledged young	Min. no. young fledged	Min. young/occupied territory
England, N	7	2	6	0.86
Wales	6	6	15	2.50
Borders & Lothian	1	0	0	0
Dumfries & Galloway	2	0	0	0
South Strathclyde	13	3	11	0.85
Stirling	5	2	5	1.00
Angus	5	2	5	1.00
Perth & Kinross	15	4	14	0.93
Northeast Scotland	14	11	38	2.71
Moray & Nairn	6	4	15	2.50
Argyll & Bute	43	28	92	2.14
Highland	12	10	28	2.33
Orkney	32	15	31	0.97
Western Isles	25	14	27	1.08
Northern Ireland	12+	?	?	–
TOTALS	198	101	287	1.45

Note: It was not possible to obtain any productivity data from the occupied territories in Northern Ireland.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

11 localities: 9-16 pairs reared 20 young. The number of breeding pairs was similar to that in 2000, yet productivity and the number of young reared was well above the recent average, as fig. 5 illustrates.

England, SW

Four localities: (1) pair reared three young; (2) pair present; (3) female in June and July; (4) male in July.

England, SE

Two localities: (1) male and two females, both successful, reared six young; (2) male and two females, one successful, reared three young.

England, E

Four localities: (1) four pairs bred, two rearing five young; (2) pair reared at least three young; (3)(4) single males in June.

England, Central

One locality: (1) male in July and August.

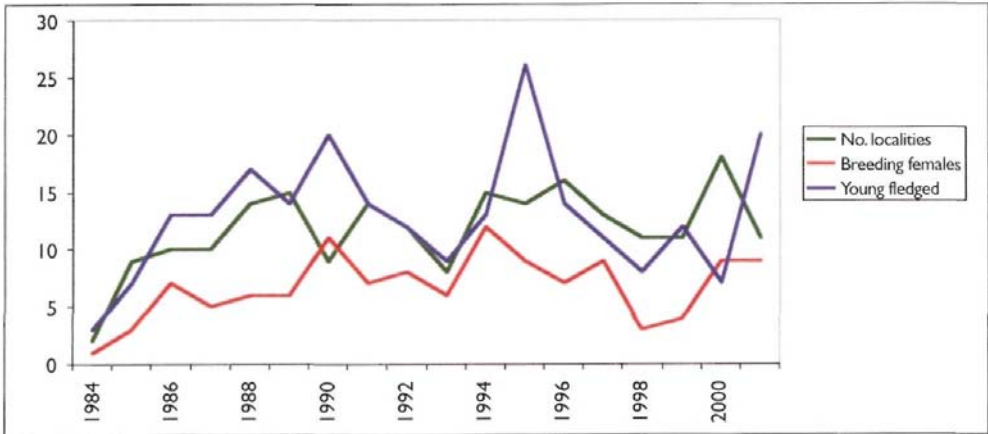


Fig. 5. Breeding data for Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*, the rarest of Britain's regularly breeding raptors, 1984-2001. In contrast to the marked success of some raptors, as shown in this report, Montagu's Harriers have experienced mixed fortunes during the past two decades.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

At least 194 localities or areas: 157-255 pairs breeding. This represents a sharp fall in the number of confirmed pairs, as well as in areas from which records came, but is largely due to access restrictions in 2001. We hope that the next report will show a return to more typical levels of reporting, and continue to urge that, in order to assist its conservation, all information on this species should be deposited with the Panel – not least by providing a more-complete dataset available on the scale and extent of persecution.

England

At least 106 localities in 18 counties; 87 pairs known to have bred, plus 79 other pairs.

Wales

39 localities in nine counties: 40 pairs known to have bred, plus six other pairs.

Scotland

49 localities in six recording areas: 30 pairs known to have bred, plus 13 other pairs.

Northern Goshawk	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
No. counties	34	35	33	38	33	41	38	42	36	33
Confirmed pairs	150	199	145	249	160	247	179	198	237	157
Max. total pairs	243	299	225	319	213	347	249	293	322	255

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

The following summary information has been received. For each area other than northern England, it is based on a non-randomised sample rather than a complete census. There was an increase in productivity for the second year running (1999: 0.41, 2000: 0.48), but it remains particularly low in some areas.

Golden Eagle	Occupied territories	Territories known to have fledged young	Min. no. young fledged	Min. young/territorial pair
England, N	2	1	1	1.00
Dumfries & Galloway	2	0	0	0
Borders	0	0	0	0
Central Scotland	9	4	5	0.56
Tayside	18	9	12	0.67
Northeast Scotland	18	5	7	0.39
Argyll	54	18	21	0.39
Highland	95	42	55	0.58
Western Isles	23	(5)	(7)	–
TOTALS	221	84	108	0.51*

* The totals for the Western Isles are omitted from this calculation since not all occupied home ranges there were checked for fledged young. Numbers in parentheses represent incomplete survey results.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

158 pairs with nests: 139 pairs laid eggs, rearing 224 young. The first breeding by the relocated birds at Rutland Water took place in 2001, with a released male breeding with an unringed female, presumably from the Scottish population. Three pairs bred in Cumbria, while further increases took place across Scotland. At least three nests were robbed by egg-collectors, and other failures were due to high winds at critical times.

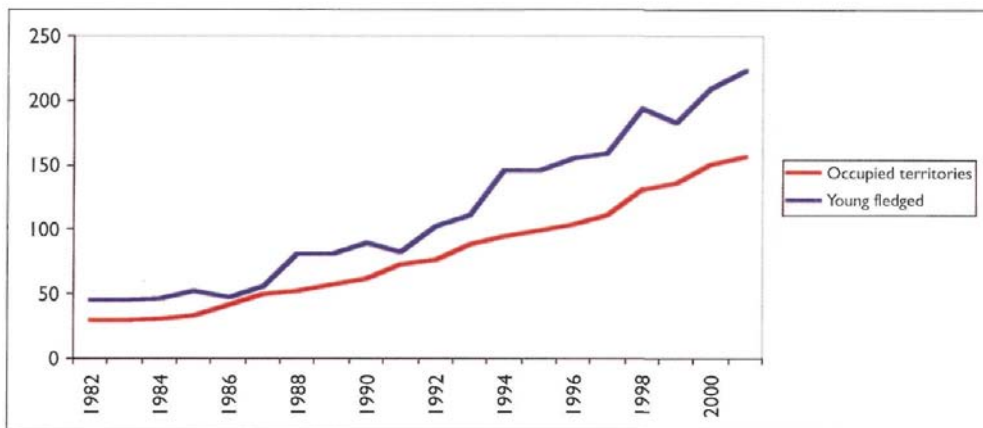


Fig. 6. Numbers of occupied territories and young fledged for Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* in the UK, 1982–2001. The species is no longer confined to Scotland, and there were four breeding pairs in England in 2001.

England, Central

LEICESTERSHIRE One pair bred, and reared one young; second pair copulating and stick carrying but did not breed; 12 more young were translocated from Scotland to Rutland Water, all of which fledged and left the area.

England, N

CUMBRIA Three localities: (1) pair bred, three young reared; (2) pair bred, one young reared; (3) pair bred, but no young reared.

Scotland, S

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY One locality: one pair bred, but eggs failed to hatch.

Scotland, Mid

FORTH Eight pairs laid, of which seven reared 18 young. TAYSIDE 45 occupied territories, 37 clutches laid, 31 hatched and 29 pairs reared 60 young. NORTHEAST 13 pairs occupied territories, 12 pairs laid, nine of which reared 20 young. ELSEWHERE Five pairs located, four of which laid, with three pairs rearing five young.

Scotland, N & W

ARGYLL Five pairs were all successful, fledging ten young. HIGHLAND 76 pairs located, of which 68 bred and 51 reared 106 young.

Osprey	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Occupied territories	76	88	95	99	104	111	131	136	151	158
Pairs with eggs	63	78	83	92	93	102	117	125	125	139
Successful pairs	47	56	69	73	74	77	93	87	nc	107
Young reared	103	111	146	146	155	159	194	183	209	224
Young/occupied territory	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.4

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

The following summary information has been received. For each area, it is based on a non-randomised sample rather than a complete census. The effect of FMD is only too obvious in the table below, with only Northeast Scotland reporting a higher total of occupied territories than in 2000, and the overall number of occupied territories and total number of successful pairs fledging young down from 294 and 181, respectively. Where it was monitored, breeding success was slightly lower than in 2000. The most recent estimate of the British population is 1,300 (1,100-1,500) pairs in 1993-94 (Rebecca & Bainbridge 1998).

Merlin	Occupied territories	Territories known to have fledged young	Min. no. young fledged	Min. young/occupied territory
England, Central	15	12	35	2.33
England, N	50	25	76	1.52
Wales	16	7	16	1.00
Borders & Lothian	22	11	30	1.36
Dumfries & Galloway	1	1	2	2.00
Angus	14	5	15	1.07
Perth & Kinross	21	10	28	1.33
Northeast Scotland	39	35	104	2.67
Argyll & Bute	4	0	0	0
Highland	35	21	73	2.09
Orkney	14	10	34	2.43
Shetland	8	6	16	2.00
Western Isles	9	9	21	2.33
Northern Ireland	7	4	6	0.86
TOTALS	255	156	456	1.79

No data were available for Southwest England, South Strathclyde and Stirling.



Gordon Langsbury

319. Merlin *Falco columbarius*, Shetland, June 1990. Foot-and-mouth disease affected monitoring of nesting Merlins in 2001, but breeding success appeared to be slightly lower than in 2000.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Minimum of 370-697 pairs breeding. Reporting of this species was less affected by FMD restrictions than it was for some others, partly because several County Recorders derive the total of pairs for their area from an analysis of all sightings rather than the actual location of pairs and nests. In this case, the number of pairs breeding in 2001 was estimated using similar techniques to those employed in previous years, so the numbers in the table are, in most cases, directly comparable.

This total remains well below a recent estimate of the total British breeding population of 2,200 pairs (Clements 2001), which was derived by extrapolation of numbers throughout the country, based upon known breeding densities in well-studied areas. Nonetheless, the first breeding records in Lancashire & North Merseyside and Highland show that the species is continuing to expand its range.

England, SW

51-166 pairs. AVON 8-13 pairs. DEVON 17 pairs. GLOUCESTERSHIRE 1-3 pairs. HAMPSHIRE 10-70 pairs. ISLE OF WIGHT One pair. SOMERSET 9-29 pairs. WILTSHIRE 5-33 pairs.

England, SE

237-324 pairs. BEDFORDSHIRE Four pairs. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 6-22 pairs. ESSEX 8-19 pairs. GREATER LONDON 0-1 pairs. HERTFORDSHIRE 2+ pairs. KENT c. 200 pairs. OXFORDSHIRE Three pairs. SURREY 6-27 pairs. SUSSEX 8-46 pairs.

England, E

21-59 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE 2-6 pairs. HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH 2-10 pairs. NORFOLK 0-3 pairs. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE 8-12 pairs. SUFFOLK 9-28 pairs.

England, Central

38-98 pairs. DERBYSHIRE 16-20 pairs. LEICESTERSHIRE 2-11 pairs. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE eight pairs. SHROPSHIRE 2-24 pairs. WARWICKSHIRE 9-34 pairs. WORCESTERSHIRE One pair.

England, N

11-31 pairs. CHESHIRE & WIRRAL 5-7 pairs. LANCASHIRE & NORTH MERSEYSIDE One pair (first successful breeding in county). NORTHUMBERLAND 5-12 pairs. YORKSHIRE 0-11 pairs.

Wales

11-16 pairs. BRECON 1-3 pairs. GLAMORGAN One pair. GWENT 5-8 pairs. RADNOR Four pairs.

Scotland, N

1-3 pairs. HIGHLAND 1-3 pairs (first breeding in region).

Hobby	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Confirmed pairs	255	152	170	161	190	167	161	246	381	370
Max. total pairs	582	493	500	430	454	624	675	553	711	697

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

The following summary information has been received. For each area, it is based on a non-randomised sample rather than a complete census. Access restrictions prevented a survey comparable with that in 2000, when the number of occupied and successful territories was 753 and 393, respectively. Breeding success, especially in England, should, therefore, be treated with caution. The most recent estimate of the UK Peregrine population is 1,263 pairs in 1991 (Crick & Ratcliffe 1995). A more up-to-date figure will soon be available from the national survey held in 2002 (postponed from 2001).

Peregrine Falcon	Occupied territories	Territories known to have produced clutches	Min. no. young fledged	Min. young/territorial pair
England, SW	113	28	94	0.83
England, SE	28	10	25	0.89
England, Central	42	23	49	1.17
England, N	119	57	118	0.99
Wales	51	26	40	0.78
Borders & Lothian	9	6	17	1.89
Dumfries & Galloway	3	2	4	1.33
South Strathclyde/Arran	1	1	2	2.00
Angus	19	10	26	1.37
Central	16	16	34	2.13
Perth & Kinross	52	40	73	1.40
Northeast Scotland	59	31	73	1.24
Moray & Nairn	1	1	2	2.00
Argyll	12	8	14	1.17
Highland	26	18	40	1.54
Orkney	7	4	11	1.57
Western Isles	3	2	7	2.33
Northern Ireland	72	47	?	–
TOTALS	633	330	629	0.99

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

4-223 pairs breeding. A very similar year to 2000, though with more birds in the southern half of England and fewer in the north; and many fewer in Scotland.

England, SW

49 males. AVON Seven singing males. DEVON Six singing males. DORSET Ten singing males. HAMPSHIRE Four singing males. SOMERSET Five singing males. WILTSHIRE 17 singing males.

England, SE

22 males. BEDFORDSHIRE One singing male. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE One singing male. ESSEX Seven singing males. KENT 12 singing males. SURREY One singing male.

England, E

Two broods, 44 males. CAMBRIDGESHIRE Up to 15 singing males. HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH Six singing males. LINCOLNSHIRE Four singing males. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Up to ten singing males. SUFFOLK Two broods, nine singing males.

England, Central

One brood, 60 males. DERBYSHIRE Five singing males. LEICESTERSHIRE Ten singing males. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Brood seen, 28 singing males. SHROPSHIRE Ten singing males. WARWICKSHIRE Seven singing males.

England, N

24 males. CHESHIRE & WIRRAL Five singing males. CUMBRIA Three singing males. GREATER MANCHESTER One singing male. LANCASHIRE & NORTH MERSEYSIDE One singing male. NORTHUMBERLAND Four singing males. YORKSHIRE Ten singing males.

Wales

Two males. GLAMORGAN One singing male. PEMBROKE One singing male.

Scotland, S

Five males. BORDERS Four singing males. DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY One singing male.

Scotland, Mid

One brood, six males. ANGUS & DUNDEE At least one brood. FIFE Four singing males. MORAY & NAIRN One singing male. PERTH & KINROSS One singing male.

Scotland, N & W

Seven males. ARGYLL Three singing males. HIGHLAND One singing male. ORKNEY One singing male, plus one found dead. SHETLAND Two singing males.

Common Quail	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Confirmed broods	9	1	8	15	5	4	5	5	2	4
Singing males	481	202	604	500	330	863	523	312	201	219
Max. total pairs	490	203	612	515	335	867	528	317	203	223

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

23 localities: 35 singing males. A similar picture to this in 2000. The national census carried out in 1999 (Gilbert 2002) represents the most accurate approximation of the total British population.

England, SW

Three localities: three males. HAMPSHIRE Three localities: (1)(2) singing males in suitable habitat in April and May; (3) bird in suitable habitat, late March and early April.

England, SE

One locality: one male. KENT One locality: singing male in late April.

England, E

Eight localities: 16 males. CAMBRIDGESHIRE Three localities: (1) seven singing males, of which four persistently; (2) two singing males; (3) singing male. NORFOLK Three localities: (1) two singing males; (2)(3) single singing males. SUFFOLK Two localities: (1)(2) single singing males, one in late March only.

England, Central

One locality: one male. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE One locality: singing male.

England, N

One locality: one male. YORKSHIRE One locality: one singing male.

Scotland, S

One locality: one male. DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY One locality: singing male in August.

Scotland, Mid

One locality: one male. NORTHEAST One locality: singing male.

Scotland, N & W

Seven localities: 11 males. ARGYLL One locality: singing male. GRAMPIAN One locality: singing male. HIGHLAND One locality: five singing males. ORKNEY One locality: one singing male. SHETLAND One locality: singing male. WESTERN ISLES Two localities: (1)(2) single singing males.

Spotted Crake	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
No. localities	12	19	5	8	8	13	16	40	22	23
No. pairs/singing males	14	31	11	10	13	14	31	46-77	34	35

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*

One singing male. This is the first time that this species has figured in these reports. It is recorded quite regularly from the Netherlands in summer and so is certainly a potential coloniser.

England, SE

One locality: one male. KENT One locality: a male sang from 26th June to 6th July (*Brit. Birds* 95: 491).

Corn Crake *Crex crex*

619 pairs or singing males. The total of 599 singing males on all Scottish islands is just six more than in 2000, which is probably a satisfactory result given the rather poor summer experienced across the area. There were increases on six islands, including one on Eigg for the first time since 1994, and declines on eight. Numbers on the mainland of Scotland were down on the 24 recorded in 2000.

England, E

One locality: one singing male. CAMBRIDGESHIRE One locality: singing male, 30th June and 1st July.

England, Central

One locality: one singing male. SHROPSHIRE One locality: singing male, 23rd May to 6th June.

Wales

One locality: one singing male. ANGLESEY One locality: singing male, 17th May to 23rd June.

Scotland, N & W: Mainland

Four main areas: 17 singing males. ARGYLL At least one singing male. CAITHNESS Four singing males. SUTHERLAND Up to ten singing males. WEST INVERNESS Two singing males.

Scotland, N & W: Hebrides, Orkney and Shetland

17 localities or areas: 599 singing males.

Total number of singing males: ARGYLL – INNER HEBRIDES 237 (Coll 62, Tiree 143, Iona 7, Colonsay & Oronsay 18, Islay 7), HIGHLAND – INNER HEBRIDES 24 (Skye 21, Eigg 1, Muck 2), ORKNEY 9, SHETLAND 2, WESTERN ISLES 327 (Lewis 60, Harris 4, Berneray 1, North Uist 74, Benbecula 34, South Uist 90, Barra & Vatersay 64).

Common Crane *Grus grus*

After failing in 2000, it is good to report a return to successful breeding for this species at the regular site in Norfolk.

England, E

NORFOLK One locality: two pairs nested, each rearing two young, though one chick died shortly after fledging.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

One locality: single male present.

England, E One locality: male present all year.

The single bird present at Titchwell, Norfolk, for the last eight years, remained throughout 2001 (*Brit. Birds* 95: 491).

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

43 localities: 800-895 pairs reared a minimum of 335 young. The data this year are incomplete: some colonies were not surveyed, while at others neither the exact number of pairs nor the production of young was known. At those colonies where breeding success could be ascertained, it was better than the disastrous situation in 2000, though still very poor at some.

England, SE

17 localities: 280-374 pairs. ESSEX Nine localities: (1) 46 pairs reared at least 18 young; (2) 40 pairs bred; (3) 35 pairs bred; (4) ten pairs reared up to ten young; (5) three pairs bred; (6)-(8) two pairs bred; (9) pair bred. KENT Eight localities: (1) 68 pairs reared 65 young; (2) 60 pairs present, no further information; (3) 31 pairs bred; (4) c. 30 pairs present, no further information; (5) 29 pairs reared up to 25 young; (6) ten pairs reared eight young; (7) pair bred; (8) up to eight adults in June.

England, E

23 localities: 494 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE One locality: pair reared two young, first (recent?) breeding record for county. LINCOLNSHIRE Three localities: (1) up to 50 pairs reared at least 90 young; (2) two pairs reared four young; (3) pair reared no young. NORFOLK Eight localities: (1) 60 pairs bred; (2) 40 pairs reared no young; (3) 26 pairs reared 44 young; (4) 20 pairs bred, few or no young reared; (5) 10 pairs bred; (6) four pairs bred; (7) two pairs reared no young; (8) two pairs bred. SUFFOLK 11 localities: (1) 78 pairs reared one young; (2) 64 pairs reared eight young; (3) 55 pairs reared one young; (4) 29 pairs reared at least 25 young; (5) 18 pairs reared no young; (6) eight pairs reared nine young; (7) eight pairs reared seven young; (8) seven pairs reared no young; (9) four pairs reared six young; (10) three pairs reared two young; (11) two pairs reared five young.

England, Central

One locality: 0-1 pairs. LEICESTERSHIRE One locality: pair present, did not breed.

England, N

Two localities: 26 pairs. LANCASHIRE & NORTH MERSEYSIDE One locality: pair reared one young. YORKSHIRE One locality: 25 pairs reared four young.

Avocet	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
No. localities	29	25	29	25	25	35	48	36	39	43
Confirmed pairs	492	436	623	613	592	654	834	655	980	800
Young reared (min.)	336	347	181	149	189	238	536	444	172	335

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*

Seven counties: 159-164 pairs fledged 103 young. Major access problems in the Norfolk and Suffolk Brecklands meant that the results for 2001 are particularly unsatisfactory. In southern England, a pair bred, albeit unsuccessfully, in Devon.

England, SW

36-41 pairs. DEVON One locality: pair bred, but no young were reared. HAMPSHIRE 12 pairs, eight of which bred, and reared one young. WILTSHIRE 28 pairs, of which 27 bred, rearing 17 young.

England, SE

Six pairs. BERKSHIRE Five pairs, which all bred, and reared three young. OXFORDSHIRE One pair reared two young.

England, E

117 pairs. NORFOLK 87 pairs reared 69 young. SUFFOLK 30 pairs reared 11 young.

Stone-curlew	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Confirmed pairs	155	146	141	165	174	192	215	235	253	159
Max. total pairs	159	162	173	174	188	203	226	246	270	164
Young reared (min.)	111	101	91	164	155	167	165	163	168	103

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

The following summary information has been received. For each area, it is based on a non-randomised sample rather than a complete census. The total number of pairs is well down from the peak count of 636 (in these reports) in 1999. The most recent estimate of the British population was 825-1,070 pairs in 1991 (Gibbons *et al.* 1993).

Little Ringed Plover	Confirmed breeding pairs	Max. total pairs
England, SW	26	31
England, SE	77	104
England, E	34	62
England, Central	96	132
England, N	109	187
Wales	13	28
Scotland, Mid	0	1
TOTALS	355	545

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

No reports were received from outside main Scottish breeding areas. The Panel seeks records only away from the main breeding range, which lies north of a line from the Firth of Clyde to the Firth of Tay and holds in the region of 840-950 pairs (Gibbons *et al.* 1993).

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

One locality: one male. The worst year since 1984, with no females at the traditional site. In the past ten years, single confirmed pairs were recorded in 1992, 1996 and 1997, with two in 1993; how much longer can Temminck's Stint maintain its tenuous place in this report?

Scotland, N & W

One locality: single male displaying in mid May.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

One locality: one pair. After two years when only a single bird was seen, one pair was present and possibly bred. What is perhaps most surprising is the tenacity with which a handful of individuals persist in their attempts to breed in Scotland. From 1990 to 1998, the number of confirmed breeding pairs varied between one and four (in 1994), but for the past three years there have been no confirmed breeding attempts at all.

Scotland, N & W

One locality: pair present, may have bred.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Two localities: two leks. Although there were two leks of reasonable size in Cambridgeshire, there was no indication of nesting at either site. No birds were present at leks used in previous years in Kent and northern England.

England, E

Two localities: two leks. CAMBRIDGESHIRE Two localities: (1) 16 males and 11 females were observed lekking during 2nd-15th May, with occasional sightings of a male and female into June, though with no proof of nesting; (2) at least 12 lekking males in late April and early May, but no evidence of breeding.

Ruff	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
No. localities	21	10	13	7	8	6	5	3	5	2
No. leks	7	7	3	3	3	5	2	3	4	2
Nests/broods	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0-1	0

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

11 localities: 52-59 pairs breeding. Despite a sharp fall in the number of localities used, the number of confirmed pairs was the highest since 1984, and the total pairs the highest since 1990. Breeding success was poor, however, especially at the sites in Cambridgeshire, where flooding disrupted breeding for the third time in four years.

England, SE

Two localities: 8-10 pairs. KENT Two localities: (1) five pairs bred, no young reared, sixth pair present; (2) three pairs bred, no young reared, fourth pair present.

England, E

Two localities: 35 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE. Two localities: (1) 28 pairs reared 16 young from 76 that hatched; (2) seven pairs bred, one reared two young.

England, N

One locality: Two pairs. LANCASHIRE & NORTH MERSEYSIDE One locality: two pairs raised one young.

Scotland, S

One locality: 0-1 pairs. DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY One locality: pair summered.

Scotland, N & W

Five localities: 7-11 pairs bred. ORKNEY Three localities: (1) four pairs reared at least two young, two further pairs

present; (2) pair probably bred; (3) single pair displaying, but no breeding evidence. SHETLAND Two localities: (1) two pairs reared one young; (2) pair bred, but failed.

Black-tailed Godwit	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
No. localities	24	16	22	15	12	11	13	18	17	11
Confirmed pairs	20	28	20	28	34	42	38	45	39	52
Max. total pairs	58	33	36	35	41	47	50	53	49	59

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Away from the species' stronghold in Orkney and Shetland; one pair bred. The pair which bred in north Wales for the first time in 2000 did not return, but a pair bred successfully on the Scottish mainland in the same area as in 1995 and 1996. The Scottish population is estimated at 530 pairs (Stone *et al.* 1997).

Scotland, N

One locality: one pair. HIGHLAND One locality: bird with young.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

The following limited information was received, and we repeat our appeal for information from bird-watchers visiting the Highlands. In this enormous, underwatched region, all records are welcome, in particular of displaying birds or singing males. This information can be sent to the local recorder, or directly to the Panel Secretary. The Scottish population is estimated at 1,100-1,600 pairs (Gibbons *et al.* 1993).

Scotland, N & W

ARGYLL At least one pair bred. HIGHLAND 65 pairs reported from 16 localities. SHETLAND Three pairs bred. WESTERN ISLES Five pairs reported.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

One locality: one pair. One, possibly two, pairs bred for the third year running at the same locality, though it is not known whether any young fledged. The only confirmed breeding record prior to 1999 was in Inverness-shire in 1959 (*Brit. Birds* 52: 430-432).

Scotland, N & W

HIGHLAND One locality: one or two pairs bred.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Five localities: 0-8 pairs bred. A small, but welcome increase after two poor years. Establishing with certainty that breeding has occurred is not a priority for this species, because it may result in unnecessary disturbance. It seems likely, however, that at least five pairs did breed. In the past decade, the maximum total of pairs recorded peaked at 11 in 1994 and 1995, with a mean of 8.7.

Scotland, N & W

Five localities: (1) four pairs present and probably breeding; (2) pair probably bred; (3)-(5) singles in suitable habitat in May-June.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Two localities: 15 breeding males reared at least seven young.

Scotland, N & W

Two localities. SHETLAND Two localities: (1) nine breeding males, at least five young fledged; (2) six breeding males, at least two young fledged.

The number of breeding males and the number of young reared in Shetland increased slightly in 2001. Disappointingly, there were no reports from the Western Isles, where birds were present at eight sites in 2000.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

22 localities: 90-105 pairs, including one mixed pair. Another excellent year, and although the overall totals are slightly below the record numbers in 2000, monitoring was hit by FMD restrictions. Had it not been for these, 2001 may have been the most successful year ever.

England, SW

Four localities: 51-56 pairs. HAMPSHIRE Three localities: (1) 46 pairs raised up to 23 young; (2) four pairs reared one young; (3) pair bred, but failed. ISLE OF WIGHT One locality: five pairs present, but breeding not confirmed.

England, SE

Nine localities: 33-38 pairs. ESSEX Four localities: (1) two pairs reared one young, third pair present; (2)(3) two pairs fledged three young; (4) pair bred, result unknown. KENT Two localities: (1) 16 pairs raised at least two young; (2) eight pairs bred, all failed. SUSSEX Three localities: (1) two pairs bred, result unknown; (2) three pairs present, end March; (3) pair present, early April.

England, E

Two localities: 2-3 pairs. SUFFOLK Two localities: (1) two pairs bred, result unknown but probably failed; (2) pair displayed, but did not breed.

England, N

Seven localities: 4-8 pairs. CUMBRIA Two localities: (1) pair bred, but failed; (2) two birds in suitable habitat. GREATER MANCHESTER One locality: pair bred, but failed. LANCASHIRE & NORTH MERSEYSIDE Three localities: (1) pair reared at least one young; (2) mixed pair (one paired with a Black-headed Gull *L. ridibundus*) bred, but failed; (3) two pairs probably bred. NORTHUMBERLAND One locality: pair present, but did not breed.

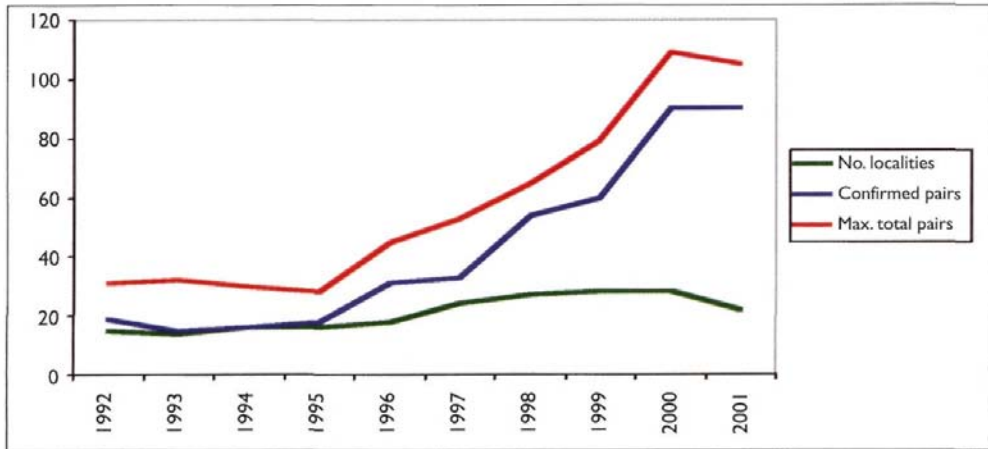


Fig. 7. Numbers of breeding Mediterranean Gulls *Larus melanocephalus* in the UK, 1992-2001. The sharp rise in the number of breeding pairs, predominantly in southern parts of England, since the late 1990s is striking, and looks set to continue.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus (cachinnans) michahellis*

Four localities: 3-4 pairs, plus mixed pair. Two successful pairs in Dorset follow single pairs which reared young there in 1997, 1999 and 2000.

England, SW

Three localities: 3-4 pairs. DORSET Two localities: (1) two pairs reared one young each; (2) pair laid twice, but failed. SOMERSET One locality: 1-2 birds present, April and May.

England, SE

One locality: One mixed pair. BEDFORDSHIRE One locality: male paired with Lesser Black-backed Gull *L. fuscus*, but did not breed.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Seven localities: 58-59 pairs reared a minimum of 66 young. Although the number of localities remained at an all-time low, the number of breeding pairs held up well, while productivity was significantly better than in 2000, when 38 young were fledged. Scotland was the only area not to show an increase in breeding pairs over 2000, dropping from 10-11 pairs to just two.

England, SW

One locality: 0-1 pairs. HAMPSHIRE One locality: pair in May.

England, N

Two localities: 43 pairs. NORTHUMBERLAND Two localities: (1) 42 pairs fledged 55 young; (2) pair reared one young.

Wales

One locality: Seven pairs. ANGLESEY One locality: seven pairs raised four young.

Scotland, Mid

Two localities: Two pairs. FIFE Two localities: (1) pair reared one young; (2) pair bred, but failed.

Northern Ireland

One locality: six pairs. CO. ANTRIM One locality: six pairs reared at least five young.

Roseate Tern	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
No. localities	15	18	14	15	11	14	11	8	7	7
Confirmed pairs	62	84	74	72	66	54	50	61	52	58
Max. total pairs	72	105	98	85	75	55	57	64	56	59

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

The following summary information has been received (data refer to number of pairs). For each area, it is based on a sample rather than a complete census. The total number of breeding pairs has risen steadily over the last five years, increasing by a third since 1997. The latest estimate of the total British breeding population is 2,430 pairs (Gibbons *et al.* 1993).

Little Tern	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
SW England	260	218	235	155	257
SE England	182	152	103	199	154
E England	561	642	776	694	712
NE England	104	146	151	100	132
NW England	9	42	50	45	55
Wales	80	45	86	nc	85
Scotland	185	215	253	304	447
TOTALS	1,381	1,460	1,654	1,497	1,842

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

1,644 pairs. Coverage was extremely patchy, with access restrictions a particular problem for this species, which so often breeds in farm buildings. The overall total was, however, almost exactly the same as in 2000 (1,625-1,642). Numbers reported from Wales were particularly low, but, in contrast, a reasonably good survey was achieved in Lincolnshire. The estimates for Northern Ireland are the first that we have published. The BTO's Barn Owl Monitoring Programme showed that nestbox occupation rates decreased from 83% to 61% between 2000 and 2001. Heavy rains and subsequent flooding during autumn 2000 may have caused a shortage of small mammal prey over the winter period, leading either to reduced survival or to a reduction in the proportion of birds attempting to breed. The Nest Record Scheme showed an exceptionally low mean brood size of 2.87 compared with a mean of 3.38 over the period 1983-2000 (Beaven *et al.* 2002).

England, SW

345 pairs. AVON 4 pairs. CORNWALL 7. DEVON 59. DORSET 16. HAMPSHIRE 60. ISLE OF WIGHT 27. SOMERSET 28. WILTSHIRE 144.

England, SE

228 pairs. BEDFORDSHIRE 3 pairs. BERKSHIRE 1. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 60. ESSEX 22. HERTFORDSHIRE 3. KENT 32. OXFORDSHIRE 30. SURREY 5. SUSSEX 72.

England, E

357 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE 21 pairs. HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH 10. LINCOLNSHIRE 236. NORFOLK 33. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE 44. SUFFOLK 13.

England, Central

140 pairs. DERBYSHIRE 25 pairs. HEREFORDSHIRE 38. LEICESTERSHIRE 14. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 13. SHROPSHIRE 7. STAFFORDSHIRE 1. WARWICKSHIRE 40. WORCESTERSHIRE 2.

England, N

383 pairs. CHESHIRE & WIRRAL 22 pairs. CUMBRIA 62. GREATER MANCHESTER 5. LANCASHIRE & NORTH MERSEYSIDE 130. NORTHUMBERLAND 7. YORKSHIRE 157.

Wales

25 pairs. BRECON 4 pairs. CEREDIGION 11. DENBIGH 2. GLAMORGAN 1. GWENT 2. PEMBROKE 5.

Scotland, S

42 pairs. ARRAN 2 pairs. Ayrshire 5. BORDERS 7. DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY 26. Lothians 2.

Scotland, Mid

3 pairs. FIFE 2 pairs. NORTHEAST SCOTLAND 1.

Scotland, N & W

56 pairs. ARGYLL 40 pairs. HIGHLAND 16.

Northern Ireland

About 65 pairs. CO. ANTRIM 10 pairs. CO. ARMAGH Up to 10 pairs. CO. DOWN Up to 15 pairs. CO. LONDONDERRY Up to 15 pairs. CO. TYRONE and CO. FERMANAGH Up to 15 pairs.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

1,008-1,058 pairs. The total is close to the highest number recorded (1,028-1,062 in 1998) since the Panel began monitoring this species in 1996. Although several of the totals are estimates, and FMD restrictions interfered with survey work in some counties, other counties have achieved more accurate and complete counts than previously.

England, SW

190 pairs. AVON 8 pairs. CORNWALL 1. DEVON 4. DORSET 5. HAMPSHIRE 116. SOMERSET 46. WILTSHIRE 10.

England, SE

225 pairs. BEDFORDSHIRE 4 pairs. BERKSHIRE 2. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE c. 100. ESSEX 12. GREATER LONDON 8. HERTFORDSHIRE 1. KENT 26. OXFORDSHIRE 25. SURREY 14. SUSSEX 33.

England, E

102 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE 21 pairs. HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH 20. LINCOLNSHIRE 19. NORFOLK 4. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE 7. SUFFOLK 31.

England, Central

120 pairs. DERBYSHIRE 2 pairs. HEREFORDSHIRE 41. LEICESTERSHIRE 6. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 15. SHROPSHIRE 15. STAFFORDSHIRE 4. WARWICKSHIRE 37.

England, N

325-375 pairs. CHESHIRE & WIRRAL 28 pairs. CUMBRIA 50-100. GREATER MANCHESTER c. 50. LANCASHIRE & NORTH MERSEYSIDE c. 100. NORTHUMBERLAND 13. YORKSHIRE 84.

Wales

11 pairs. BRECON 10 pairs. CEREDIGION 1.

Scotland, S

15 pairs. BORDERS 12 pairs. DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY 2. Lothians 1.

Scotland, Mid

12 pairs. ANGUS & DUNDEE 3 pairs. NORTHEAST SCOTLAND 5. PERTH & KINROSS 4.

Scotland, N & W

8 pairs. HIGHLAND 8 pairs.

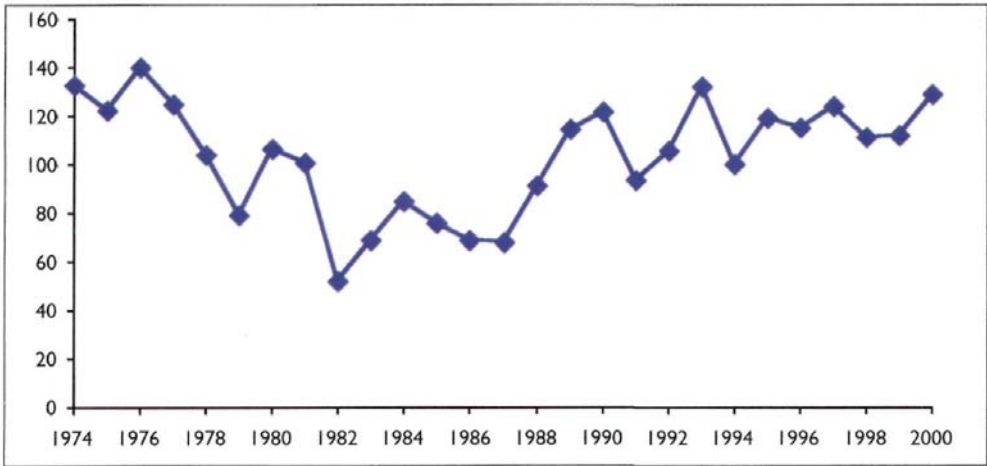


Fig. 8. The annual population index for the Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*, 1974-2000, derived from the BTO's Waterways Bird Survey.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

No breeding-season reports were received. This is the first 'complete blank' in 30 years reporting. Is this the end of Wrynecks trying to breed in Britain?

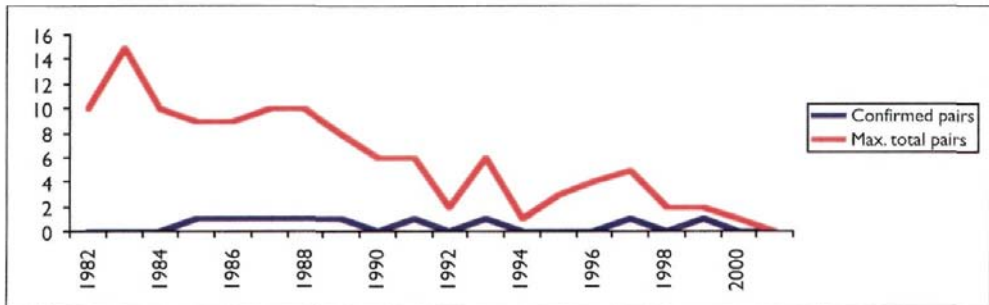


Fig. 9. Numbers of breeding Wrynecks *Jynx torquilla* in the UK, 1982-2001. This species may now be officially extinct as a breeding bird in Britain.

Wood Lark *Lullula arborea*

The following county totals were received (data show number of pairs), which are compared with those from the previous four years, including the full census in 1997. The totals do not reflect the 2001 breeding population accurately. Survey work was almost impossible in some of the most important areas, especially in the Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks.

Wood Lark	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Cornwall	0	0	0	0	0
Devon	53	7	12	10	5
Dorset	105	54	66	2	47
Hampshire	294	174	179	c.325	158
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0

continued on page 510

Wood Lark <i>continued</i>	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Wiltshire	3	2	9	0	1
Bedfordshire	1	1	0	0	1
Berkshire	63	2	40	nc	0
Buckinghamshire	6	3	5	0	1
Essex	0	3	2	0	0
Kent	3	6	1	3	4
Surrey	171	134	135	c.162	133
Sussex	71	60	nc	78	44
Lincolnshire	37	40	51	nc	44
Norfolk	248	326	364	c.300	56
Suffolk	457	459	474	470	305
Nottinghamshire	31	78	135	57	24
Staffordshire	7	3	0	0	0
Yorkshire	2	19	27	22	33
TOTALS	1,552	1,371	1,500	1,429	856

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

One locality: male and female. This is the third year running that at least one bird has been present at this site.

Scotland, N & W

HIGHLAND One locality: male in May and June, female once in August.

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*

One locality: one singing male. This is the third time that this species has appeared in these reports, but the first since 1994.

England, E

LINCOLNSHIRE Male singing, 15th May, Gibraltar Point (*Brit. Birds* 95: 505).

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

One locality: one singing male.

Wales

CEREDIGION Male of the white-spotted form *L. c. cyaneacula* in song, Cors Caron, 26th May (*Welsh Bird Report* 2001).

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

31 localities: 17-44 pairs breeding. A disappointing year, although the 2000 Kent survey, which found 11 localities in use, was not repeated in 2001.

England, SW

One locality: 0-1 pairs. AVON One locality: singing male.

England, SE

13 localities or areas: 9-20 pairs. BEDFORDSHIRE One locality: juvenile in July thought to have been reared nearby. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE One locality: singing male. ESSEX Six localities: (1) pair bred; (2)-(6) single singing males. LONDON One area: four pairs bred, plus three singing males. KENT One locality: two pairs bred. SURREY Three localities: (1) pair bred; (2)(3) singing males.

England, E

12 localities: 8-18 pairs. HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH One locality: pair bred, plus singing male. LINCOLNSHIRE Three localities: (1) pair bred; (2)(3) single females. NORFOLK Two localities: (1) three pairs bred, plus singing male; (2) singing male. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE One locality: at least one pair bred. SUFFOLK Five localities: (1) pair bred, plus two other pairs; (2) pair bred; (3) pair possibly bred; (4)(5) single singing males.

England, Central

Two localities: 0-2 pairs. DERBYSHIRE One locality: singing male. LEICESTERSHIRE One locality: singing male.

England, N

Three localities: 0-3 pairs. GREATER MANCHESTER One locality: pair possibly bred. LANCASHIRE & NORTH MERSEYSIDE Two localities: (1)(2) single singing males.

Black Redstart	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
No. localities	44	53	66	58	46	67	71	39	39	31
Confirmed pairs	14	32	32	19	28	33	32	15	24	17
Max. total pairs	71	76	95	82	65	99	91	50	66	44

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Six localities: 2-6 pairs breeding. Although found at fewer localities than in 2000, breeding was confirmed for the second year running. During the past ten years, the number of confirmed pairs has varied between none and two (mean 1.0), and the maximum total of pairs between none and ten (mean 5.4).

England, E

One locality: pair displaying in early May.

England, N

Two localities: (1) pair bred, feeding unknown number of young; (2) agitated pair present in late June.

Scotland, S

Two localities: (1) pair in suitable habitat in mid June, but no evidence of breeding; (2) flock of five on 21st July, potential family party.

Scotland, Mid

One locality: pair bred, adult carrying food.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Five localities: 3-6 pairs breeding. The decline continues, with the number of localities and maximum number of pairs reaching the lowest levels for a decade, during which the number of confirmed pairs peaked at nine in 1992 (mean 3.6), and the maximum total of pairs peaked at 38 in 1996 (mean 20.1). Again, we appeal to all observers, including birdwatchers visiting the Highlands, to listen for singing birds and to report them to the local recorder or to the Panel Secretary.

Scotland, N & W

Five localities: (1) two pairs bred; (2) pair bred; (3)-(5) single singing males.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

637 'pairs' or singing males. The total has fallen only slightly compared with the record number of singing males in 2000 (678), suggesting that FMD restrictions had relatively little effect on recording this noisy bird.

England, SW

431 males. AVON 16 singing males. CORNWALL 12 singing males. DEVON 19 singing males. DORSET 69 singing males. GLOUCESTERSHIRE Four singing males. HAMPSHIRE 151 singing males. ISLE OF WIGHT 12 singing males. SOMERSET 129 singing males. WILTSHIRE 19 singing males.

England, SE

36 males. ESSEX Four singing males. OXFORDSHIRE 10 singing males. SUSSEX 22 singing males.

England, E

118 males. NORFOLK 103 singing males. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Two singing males. SUFFOLK 13 singing males.

England, Central

Seven males. WARWICKSHIRE Four singing males. WORCESTERSHIRE Three singing males.

Wales

45 singing males. ANGLESEY Six singing males. CARMARTHEN 11 singing males. CEREDIGION/PEMBROKE Three singing males. GOWER 14 singing males. GWENT 11 singing males.

Cetti's Warbler	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
No. counties	18	21	23	25	28	24	27	24	23	22
Max. total 'pairs'	298	317	332	441	574	361	496	563	678	637

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*

Nine localities: 0-9 pairs. Despite FMD restrictions, 2001 was the best year since 1994.

England, SW

AVON One locality: singing male in May. GLOUCESTERSHIRE One locality: singing male in May and June.

England, SE

KENT Two localities: (1)(2) single singing males in May.

England, E

CAMBRIDGESHIRE One locality: singing male in late April and May. NORFOLK Three localities: (1)-(3) single singing males.

England, N

YORKSHIRE One locality: singing male in late April.

Savi's Warbler	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
No. localities	13	5	7	2	3	4	2	7	2	9
Confirmed pairs	2	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Max. total pairs	22	8	10	3	3	5	2	9	2	9

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

16 localities: 5-20 pairs breeding. Inevitably, access restrictions prevented visits to several regular haunts at the right time of year, and the Kent Ornithological Society was not able to repeat its survey of 2000. On the other hand, successful breeding in Yorkshire is noteworthy. During the past decade, the number of confirmed pairs has varied between none and 12 (in 1993), with the maximum total of pairs recorded between 20 and 58 (also in 1993). Quite why the North Sea remains such an effective barrier to this species remains a mystery. Having travelled from its East African wintering quarters to breed commonly throughout northern and western Europe, establishing a viable population in eastern England would not seem to present an insurmountable hurdle.

England, SE

Seven localities: 4-8 pairs, plus two singing males. ESSEX Two localities: (1) pair reared two young; (2) two singing males. KENT Four localities: (1) three pairs of which two reared young; (2)-(4) single pairs present, breeding status unknown. GREATER LONDON One locality: singing male in May, two adults and juvenile in July presumed to have bred there.

England, E

Seven localities: eight singing males or individuals. LINCOLNSHIRE One locality: singing male. SUFFOLK Six localities: (1) two singing males; (2)-(5) single singing males; (6) bird seen late July and early August.

England, Central

One locality: one singing male. WARWICKSHIRE One locality: singing male in late May.

England, N

One locality: one pair. YORKSHIRE One locality: pair reared one young.

Marsh Warbler	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
No. localities	13	15	22	16	11	17	10	22	21	16
Confirmed pairs	9	12	0	2	3	5	9	3	0	5
Max. total pairs	35	58	48	31	22	32	24	29	31	20

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

Two localities: two singing males.

England, E

LINCOLNSHIRE Male singing, Welland Bank Pits, 16th-22nd May.

England, N

CLEVELAND Male singing, Coatham Marsh, 15th-16th May (*Brit. Birds* 95: 511).

Marmora's Warbler *Sylvia sarda*

Two localities: two singing males. This is the first time this species has featured in these reports.

England, E

NORFOLK Singing male, Scolt Head, 12th and 18th May (*Brit. Birds* 95: 512). SUFFOLK Singing male, Sizewell, 29th May (*Brit. Birds* 95: 512).

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

Minimum of 1,203 territories identified. A low total compared with those of 1999 and 2000, although the large New Forest population, which typically holds several hundred pairs, was not counted this year. Devon reported a 50% decline over the 2000 total, the third year running that it has fallen there, from a high of 277 pairs in 1998.



Richard Brooks

320. Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*, Dunwich Heath, Suffolk, March 2003. As for many other species, FMD had a deleterious effect on the recording efficiency of observers monitoring this species in 2001. Nonetheless, the 98 pairs reported in Devon represents a 50% decline over the 2000 total, the third year running that it has fallen, from a high of 277 pairs in 1998.

Dartford Warbler	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
No. counties	7	11	10	12	12	11	12	11	9	12
Max. total pairs	926	1,146	1,675	1,679	552	915	947	1,747	1,925	1,203

England, SW

556 pairs. DEVON 98 pairs. DORSET 183. HAMPSHIRE 207 (excluding New Forest). ISLE OF WIGHT 6. SOMERSET 60. WILTSHIRE 2.

England, SE

596 pairs. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 1 pair. KENT 5. SURREY 529. SUSSEX 61.

England, E

48 pairs. SUFFOLK 48 pairs.

Wales

3 pairs. GLAMORGAN 3 pairs.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

One locality: one singing male. The first such record since 1993.

England, SW

DORSET Male singing, Weston, Portland, 1st-2nd July (*Brit. Birds* 95: 514).

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

39 localities or areas: 10-121 pairs breeding. The Kent Ornithological Society is to be congratulated on going ahead with its survey of Forest Enterprise woodlands, which produced the highest number of Firecrests in the county for 18 years. Coverage elsewhere was patchy, but quite good in the important county of Hampshire. The Kent survey shows what can be achieved when studying this attractive species.

England, SW

11 localities or areas: 2-60 pairs. AVON One locality: singing male. GLOUCESTERSHIRE One locality: three singing males. HAMPSHIRE Two localities or areas: (1) 35 pairs; (2) 12 pairs in remainder of county. WILTSHIRE Seven localities: (1)(2) pairs bred; (3)(4) two singing males; (5)-(7) single singing males.

England, SE

19 localities: 8-44 pairs. BEDFORDSHIRE One locality: pair possibly bred. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE One locality: at least one singing male. KENT County survey of Forest Enterprise woodlands: eight pairs bred, with another 18 singing males in nine localities. OXFORDSHIRE One locality: three singing males. SURREY Four localities: (1) 3-4 singing males; (2)-(4) single singing males. SUSSEX Three localities: (1) three singing males; (2) two singing males; (3) singing male.

England, E

8 localities: 0-15 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE Two localities: (1)(2) single singing males. SUFFOLK Six localities: (1)(2) four singing males; (3) two singing males; (4)-(6) single singing males.

Wales

One locality: 0-2 pairs. RADNOR One locality: two males in June.

Firecrest	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
No. localities	15	20	41	35	35	26	30	37	33	39
Max. total pairs	19	28	66	56	60	48	62	103	103	121

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

385-396 pairs. A considerable decline from the 483-520 pairs reported in 2000, but still close to the 339-408 pairs estimated in 1992 by Campbell *et al.* (1996). There were clearly recording problems in some areas, but the decline from 55 pairs to eight at the RSPB's Leighton Moss reserve, Lancashire, was genuine, and thought to have been caused by a combination of severe winter flooding and/or very poor setting of *Phragmites* seed.

England, SW

24 pairs. DORSET 15 pairs at four localities. HAMPSHIRE Nine pairs at three localities.

England, SE

97 pairs. ESSEX Ten pairs at three localities. KENT 64 pairs. SUSSEX 23 pairs at four localities.

England, E

175 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE One pair. LINCOLNSHIRE Five pairs at two localities. NORFOLK 36 pairs at three localities. SUFFOLK 133 pairs at seven localities.

England, N

63 pairs. LANCASHIRE & NORTH MERSEYSIDE Eight pairs at one locality. YORKSHIRE 55 pairs at one locality.

Wales

One pair. CEREDIGION Two birds in May at one locality.

Scotland, Mid

25-36 pairs. MORAY & NAIRN Single male in July at locality where up to six birds have been present in the last three years. PERTH & KINROSS One extensive locality containing an estimated 25-35 pairs.



321. Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*, Norfolk, May 1993. At Leighton Moss, Lancashire, one of the species' most northerly breeding sites in the UK, a decline in the number of Bearded Tits from 55 pairs to eight in 2001 is thought to have been caused by a combination of severe winter flooding and/or very poor setting of *Phragmites* seed.

Crested Tit *Parus cristatus*

These data, received from local studies, represent a very incomplete picture of the Scottish population. The estimated total population is 900 pairs (Gibbons *et al.* 1993).

Scotland, Mid

MORAY & NAIRN Estimated county total 50-100 pairs; nestbox study suspended because of FMD restrictions; three boxes known to have been occupied.

Scotland, N & W

HIGHLAND Three localities: (1)-(3) total of four pairs bred.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

11 localities: 3-11 pairs breeding.

England, E

A total of 34 nest localities was visited in the study area, with the presence of birds being confirmed at 11 sites. Breeding was confirmed at only three sites, but probably occurred at one other. A minimum of just two young are known to have fledged, though it is possible that three more did so, but one nest is known to have failed. In addition, seven other sites are known to have held birds, including two with a singing male, and two at which more than one bird was seen on more than one occasion. This was by far the worst year since the 1970s, and not only within the study area, since there was a complete absence of records from outside it.

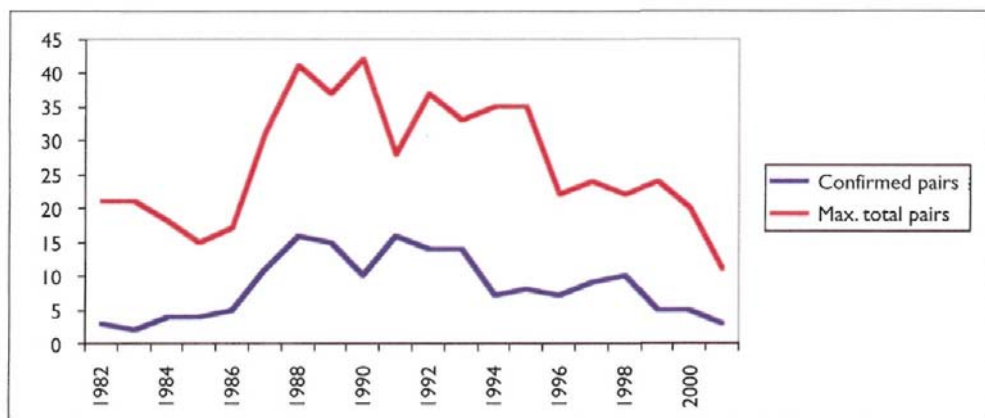


Fig. 10. Numbers of breeding Golden Orioles *Oriolus oriolus* in the UK, 1982-2001. The 2001 breeding season was one of the worst for this species since the 1970s.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Four localities: 0-4 pairs breeding. A similar year to 2000, although the brief appearance of a bird in northern Scotland is welcome after a gap last year. As Red-backed Shrike remains a common and widespread species throughout much of central Europe, it is hoped that it is experiencing a natural, periodic or cyclical fluctuation in numbers, more apparent in the UK because the species is at the edge of its breeding range here, rather than a terminal decline. In the past decade, there have been single confirmed breeding pairs in just four years: 1992, 1994, 1997 and 1999. The maximum total of pairs has ranged from one to 13 (in 1992) during this time (see fig. 11).

England, SW

Three localities: (1)(2) single females in late June; (3) female in mid July.

Scotland, N

One locality: male on 9th May.

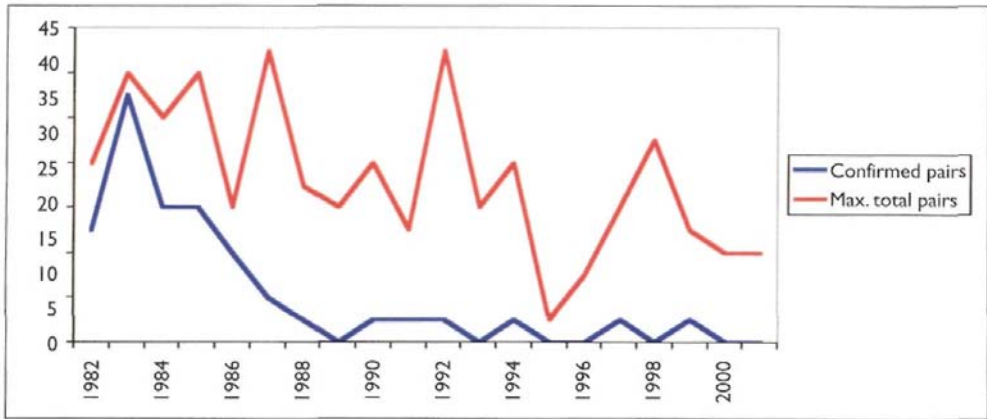


Fig. 11. The decline of the Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* in the UK, 1982-2001.

This graph shows how the species has virtually disappeared as a breeding species during the last two decades.

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhacorax*

Several areas, including sites in Wales, Islay and the Isle of Man, were not fully surveyed this year. The appearance of up to seven birds in Cornwall in early 2001 was followed by observations of a pair on the Lizard peninsula from April. One bird was seen carrying sticks into a cliff crevice in early July, but there was no further evidence of breeding (Carter *et al.* 2003).

Red-billed Chough	Occupied sites	Successful pairs	Young young fledged/reared	Young/territorial pair
Cornwall	1	0	0	0
Anglesey	9	4	15	1.67
Caernarfon	7	7	20	2.86
Ceredigion	25	15	36	1.44
Glamorgan	3	nc	nc	-
Pembroke	7	4	10	1.43
Dumfries & Galloway	1	1	3	3.00
Colonsay & Oronsay	17	12	29	1.71
Islay	15	10	25	1.67
Antrim	2	0	0	0
TOTALS	87	53+	138+	1.64

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Two localities: 1-2 pairs. The first confirmed breeding since a single pair in 1993 – the only other such record during the past ten years.

Scotland, N & W

HIGHLAND Two localities: (1) adult with young in late June; (2) singing male in late April.

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

The following information was received for England and Wales. The few Scottish records received are not presented. Many recorders reported that it was a relatively poor year for this species.

England, SW

DEVON Seven localities: presumed breeding. HAMPSHIRE Seven pairs. SOMERSET Eight birds in suitable habitat.

England, SE

KENT Four pairs. SURREY Five pairs. SUSSEX 17 pairs.

England, E

SUFFOLK One pair bred.

England, Central

DERBYSHIRE Up to four pairs. LEICESTERSHIRE 31 birds in July may have been local breeders. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE One pair. SHROPSHIRE Up to ten pairs.

England, N

CUMBRIA 100-150 pairs (from Stott *et al.* 2002). YORKSHIRE 10 pairs.

Wales

BRECON Four pairs. CAERNARFON At least five pairs. CEREDIGION Two pairs. GWENT At least one pair.

Scottish Crossbill *Loxia scotica*

No detailed reports were received from the two main study areas, so this information merely confirms that breeding actually occurred in 2001. See Summers *et al.* (2002) for more information on the distribution and habitats of this species. No data are available on populations.

Scotland, N & W

Two localities: (1) one pair bred, plus four other pairs; (2) pair bred.

Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus*

The distribution, status and breeding biology of this species were discussed recently (Summers 2002; Summers *et al.* 2002), but neither paper gave any estimate of population size, which is still not known.

Scotland, Mid and N & W

HIGHLAND Two pairs bred at the RSPB Abernethy Forest reserve, one rearing three young, the other failing. A pair reared four young at a nearby locality.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

One locality: pair bred. One of the two pairs in Yorkshire in 2000, previously reported as seen nest-building, was subsequently seen carrying food into dense scrub, confirming that breeding took place. The 2001 breeding record therefore makes it the second year running that a pair has bred. Nonetheless, the complete absence of other records means that the overall decline continues. From a peak of 20 possible breeding pairs (and five confirmed pairs) in 13 localities in 1992, numbers have steadily declined, making 2001 the worst year in the past decade.

England, N

CUMBRIA One locality: one pair reared three young.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Five areas or localities: up to six pairs. These records are not representative of this species, which has an estimated population of 70-100 pairs (Gibbons *et al.* 1993).

Scotland, Mid and N & W

NORTHEAST SCOTLAND/HIGHLAND At least 17 males, and probably more than 20, within the recording area.

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirius*

DEVON Virtually no coverage, owing to FMD. A full census took place in 2002, the results of which will be published in due course.

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